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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-005 *9 January 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israelis, Palestinians Meet at Erez Checkpoint 1
Sha'th on Need to Release Detainees *[MENA]* 1
'Arafat, Peres Meet *[AFP]* 1
'Arafat, Peres Hold News Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
Israeli-Palestinian Talks on Elections Held 2
Israel's Zohar Arrives for Cairo Talks *[MENA]* 2
Talks Open in West Bank, Gaza Strip *[MENA]* 2
'Syrian Sources' on Participation in Washington Talks *[AL-ITTIHAD 30 Dec]* 2
Iraq Asks Morocco To Mediate Contacts With Israel *[HA'ARETZ 9 Jan]* 3

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Condemns Israeli Settlement Policy *[Cairo Radio]* 3
Palestinian Envoy Warns of 'New Intifadah' *[Jericho VOP]* 3
League Plays Down Fears of Israeli Economic Domination *[AFP]* 4
'Abd-al-Majid Rules Out Arab Summit in Feb *[AFP]* 4

Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns Russia's Actions in Chechnya *[Riyadh Radio]* 5
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 20 Dec 5
Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 25 Dec 5
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 27 Dec 7

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges 'More' Opposition to Settlements *[Jericho VOP]* 8
'Urayqat on Settlements, Cairo Talks, Redeployment *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Al-Husayni: Negotiations Reach 'Dangerous Point' *[MENA]* 9
Al-Tarifi: Returnees, Families Welcome in PA Areas *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Al-Tibi Discusses Likud 'Clamor' Over 'Abbas Book *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Likud-Labor Rivalry, 'Abbas Book Controversy Seen *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Commentary Views Upcoming Erez, Cairo Talks *[Jericho VOP]* 11
Journalists Reject PA Requirements for Press Cards *[THE JERUSALEM TIMES 6 Jan]* 11
PFLP Claims Credit for Killing Jewish Settler *[AFP]* 12
Hamas Denies Bomb Threat to Argentine Embassy *[AL-MAJD 9 Jan]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Responses to Threat Against Foreign Embassies 13
Deadline for Closing Passes *[London MBC TV]* 13
More From Meziane-Cherif *[Paris International]* 13
Reportage on National Dialogue Meeting Abroad 13
Presidency Condemns Initiative *[Algiers TV]* 13
FFS Leader on Participation Goals *[Paris TV]* 14
Further FFS Comment *[Rome TV]* 14

National Council Comments *[Algiers TV]* 14
Government Program Defended *[Rome TV]* 14
FLN Leader on Contacts With FIS Leaders *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Jan]* 15
Prime Minister: Elections To Be Held on Schedule *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Newspaper, Radio Correspondents Killed 15
LIBERTE Correspondent Killed *[AFP]* 15
Radio Correspondent Dies *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Special Court To Examine FIS Leaders' Cases *[Algiers TV]* 16
Berber Cultural Movement Extends School Boycott *[Paris International]* 16
Manpower Agreement Reached With Libya *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Restructuring Minister on Five Target Companies *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Five Billion Dollar Debt Rescheduling Announced *[Algiers Radio]* 17

Egypt

Reportage on U.S. Defense Secretary Perry's Visit 17
Perry Arrives in Cairo *[MENA]* 17
Meets With President Mubarak *[MENA]* 17
Military Talks Open *[MENA]* 17
Departs After 2-Day Visit *[MENA]* 18
Musa Comments on Jerusalem, Threat Against Iran *[MENA]* 18
Musa, MK Darawshah Discuss 'Palestine,' Israel *[MENA]* 18
Jordanian Ambassador Meets With Musa *[MENA]* 19
EU Official Arrives in Cairo for 2-Day Visit *[MENA]* 19
Poll Taken on 'Terrorism,' Peace, Plurality *[AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 29 Dec]* 19
Human Rights Group Alleges Torture of Prisoners *[AL-WAFD 30 Dec]* 21
AFP Reports al-Minya Security Chief Fired *[AFP]* 21
Brotherhood Leader Denies Support for Violence *[Tehran Radio]* 22
Security Operations, 'Terrorist' Activity Reported 22
5 'Terrorists' Reportedly 'Eliminated' *[MENA]* 22
Policeman Wounded; Militant Arrested in Raid *[AFP]* 23
Police Arrest 18 Suspected Militants *[AFP]* 23
Police Kill 3 al-Jama'ah Members in Asyut *[AFP]* 24

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Local Activists *[Tripoli TV]* 24
Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed by Turkish Television *[JANA]* 25

Morocco

Director Views Seizure of Newspaper Edition *[Paris International]* 25

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Police Use Tear-Gas, Rubber Bullets on Demonstrators *[AFP]* 26
IRNA Reports on Clashes 26

Kuwait

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Visits *[Kuwait Radio]* 26

IRAQ

U.S. Criticism of French Interests Decision Reported *[INA]* 27
Official Hails French Move *[AFP]* 27
BABIL Sees 'Hole' in 'Alliance' *[INA]* 27
Reaction to French Move Viewed *[INA]* 27
Magazine Says Special Commission U.S. 'Tool' *[BABIL 22 Dec]* 28

Saddam's Son Linked to Iranian Smuggling *[Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 6 Jan]* 28
Ex-Intelligence Chief on Saddam's Missile, Germ Bomb Stocks *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Jan]* 29
Opposition Reportedly Learns Saddam Hiding Weapons *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 29
Foreign Ministry Delegation Leaves for Syria *[SHIHAN 7 Jan]* 29
Army Commanders Urged To End Country's Tragedy *[Iraqi Army Radio]* 29
Opposition Radio Says Army To Punish 'Tyrants' *[Iraqi Army Radio]* 29
First 'Saddam Commando' Units Class Graduates *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
PRC Envoy on Embargo, GATT Membership Issue *[AL-QADISIYAH 22 Dec]* 30

ISRAEL

U.S. Defense Secretary Visits, Brings 'Full Agenda' 31
First Round of Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Nuclear Issues, Golan Discussed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Rabin Addresses Missile Threat *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Netanyahu Warns Perry on Golan Issue *[THE JERUSALEM POST 9 Jan]* 32
Perry Flies Over Golan; Settlers Protest *[AFP]* 33
Golan Settlers Demonstrate Near Pe'er *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Rabin Comments on Regional, Palestinian Issues *[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI 6 Jan]* 33
'Abbas Book Alleges 1992 Labor-PLO Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36
Reaction to Alleged 'Arafat-Labor Contacts *[Jerusalem TV]* 38
Morocco's 'First Diplomatic Representation' Reported *[Jerusalem TV]* 38

JORDAN

King Issues Letter of Designation to Bin-Shakir *[Amman TV]* 39
Bin-Shakir Replies *[Amman TV]* 42
New Cabinet Announced, Sworn In *[Amman TV]* 44
Royal Decree Issued *[Amman TV]* 44
JORDAN TIMES on New 31-Member Government 45
New Cabinet Makeup Analyzed *[9 Jan]* 45
New Ministers Profiled *[9 Jan]* 46
Changes Expected To Improve Ties With Parliament *[JORDAN TIMES 6 Jan]* 47
Bin-Shakir Meets Brotherhood, Other Blocs *[AL-ASWAQ 8 Jan]* 48

LEBANON

Foreign Minister on Alexandria Summit, Other Issues *[Beirut Radio]* 49
'Arafat Loyalists, Opponents Clash in Sidon Camp *[VOL]* 50
Al-Hariri Returns After Heart Surgery in U.S. *[Beirut Radio]* 50
Junblatt Opposes Security Delegation to U.S. *[IRNA]* 50
Fadlallah: U.S. Wants To Eliminate Islamists *[VOL]* 50
'Arafat Reportedly Says 400 'Gunmen' To Leave Country *[Voice of the South]* 50

SYRIA

Israel Said Preparing for 'Hostile Military Acts' *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Peace Seen as Acceptable If All Muslims Agree *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Jan]* 51
Israel Seen Pressuring Government, Extorting Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 52
Al-Shar' Receives UN Envoy, Invitation for al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 52

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Seeks Elected Government After Power Transfer *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 53
Rabbani: Crisis is 'Not a Power Struggle' *[Kabul Radio]* 53
Clashes Among Golboddin's Militiamen in Lowgar *[Kabul Radio]* 53
18 Casualties in Raids by CIS Aircraft *[Kabul Radio]* 54
First Red Cross Food Convoy Arrives in Kabul *[AFP]* 54

Iran

Combined Naval Forces Exercise Begins in Gulf *[Tehran Radio]* 54
UN Mission Denies TIMES Nuclear Build-up Allegations *[IRNA]* 55
Russia's Mikhaylov Discusses Bushehr Project 55
Mikhaylov Hopes To Sign Contract *[IRNA]* 55
Russia To Complete Plant in 4 Years *[Tehran TV]* 55
Officials Sign Contract *[Tehran TV]* 56
Daily Describes Atomic Energy as 'Much Needed' *[IRNA]* 56
Russia Said Ready To Accept Aid for Chechnya *[IRNA]* 56
Official on 'Readiness' To Help Solve Chechen Crisis *[IRNA]* 56
Jannati Second Sermon on Chechnya, Anti-Profiteering *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Jannati Sermon Wants Marja' in Step With Leadership *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Tehran Hosts ECO Regional Planning Council Session *[IRNA]* 60
Envoy to Norway Recalled Over Rushdie Fatwa Remark *[Stockholm Radio]* 60
Hashemi Interviewed About Upcoming Talks in Kuwait *[KUNA]* 60
Joint Staff Chief on Air Force Commander's Death *[IRNA]* 61
Voice And Vision Announces Changes, Additions 61
*New Channels To Be Added to TV Network *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 17 Nov]* 61
Fourth Television Network Inaugurated *[Tehran Radio]* 61
New Ground Transmitter Commissioned *[Tehran Radio]* 62

Pakistan

Upcoming U.S. Defense Secretary Perry's Visit Examined 62
Visit Hopes To 'Revise Perceptions' *[DAWN 7 Jan]* 62
Editorial Urges Emphasis on Security *[THE MUSLIM 8 Jan]* 63
'Alarmist' Opposition Claims Viewed *[THE MUSLIM 8 Jan]* 64
'Thousands' Attend Anti-U.S. Rally *[AFP]* 64
Government Accused of 'Selling Out' *[THE MUSLIM 7 Jan]* 65
Bhutto Urged To Postpone U.S. Visit *[THE MUSLIM 7 Jan]* 66

Sri Lanka

Military, LTTE Radio Link Set; Truce Reportedly Holds *[AFP]* 67
President Holds News Conference on LTTE Agreement *[Colombo International]* 67

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israelis, Palestinians Meet at Erez Checkpoint

Sha'th on Need to Release Detainees

NC0801181295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1703 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 8 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PA], telephoned Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today. They agreed to meet tomorrow at the Erez checkpoint to arrange for the next meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Palestinian sources noted that President 'Arafat might be present at Sha'th's meeting with Peres. The meeting will also be devoted to working out a plan for the negotiations between the two sides in the next two weeks.

MENA has learned that during the telephone conversation Dr. Sha'th emphasized the need to release about 700 Palestinian male and female detainees who have signed pledges renouncing violence. He said that their continued detention can only be interpreted as their being held as political hostages.

Sha'th threatened to withdraw from the negotiations unless these prisoners are released. He also demanded the release of the remaining 6,000 detainees in Israeli jails.

MENA also learned that the Palestinians will tell Peres tomorrow that it is necessary to halt any expansion of the Israeli settlements to avoid disturbances that might halt the negotiations and obstruct the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. The Palestinians will inform Peres that Israel will be held responsible for any such delay.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PA minister of culture and information, will attend tomorrow's meeting between Sha'th and Peres at the Erez checkpoint.

'Arafat, Peres Meet

NC0901110395 Paris AFP in English 1022 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Erez Crossing, Gaza Strip, Jan 9 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat met Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on Monday [9 January] in a bid to unblock stalled negotiations on the spread of Palestinian autonomy, officials said.

The two men, who last met on December 21, went into talks at the Erez crossing into the Gaza Strip at midday with officials saying Jewish settlement building and the fate of Palestinian prisoners would also be on the agenda.

"We want to pursue the negotiations on redeployment and elections," an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Israeli army redeployment outside West Bank towns to allow for Palestinian elections has proved the main sticking point in the Cairo negotiations to extend self-rule across the West Bank.

"The Palestinians will no doubt raise the question of settlements and prisoners," the spokesman added.

Palestinian cooperation "minister" Nabil Sha'th voiced satisfaction with the Israeli government decision to set up a ministerial committee to study the prisoner issue.

"It shows goodwill on the part of the Israeli leaders," Sha'th said.

The committee made up of Police Minister Moshe Shahal, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Justice Minister David Libai held a first session Sunday.

Shahal and Sarid accompanied Peres at the talks while Sha'th was with 'Arafat.

"The three members of the committee know the importance the Palestinians attach to the issue which is fundamental to the success of the peace process," Sha'th told Monday's AL QUDS newspaper. "I hope the decision (to free prisoners) will be taken quickly."

Some 5,500 Palestinians are held in Israeli jails.

The HA'ARETZ newspaper reported that 1,000 are accused of murder while 2,600 have been detained since the September 1993 autonomy accord with the Palestinians.

The daily said the committee may first decide to release 50 Palestinians jailed for minor offences.

Security questions were also expected to be debated. The Israeli army has accused the Palestinians of breaking the autonomy accord by boosting the size of the Palestinian police force to 13,000 from 9,000.

'Arafat, Peres Hold News Conference

TA0901130295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the issue of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the West Bank and the second stage of the Oslo agreement will be dealt with in the meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and 'Arafat, as well as in tripartite meetings which he too will occasionally attend. Peres said that they have decided not to divulge the details of the negotiations until a full agreement is reached. Another meeting with 'Arafat will be held this week.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said that the Palestinians understand Israel's security needs and are willing to overcome the obstacles. 'Arafat emphasized that all the security prisoners should be freed, especially the female Palestinian prisoners.

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[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 9 January includes a report by Shlomo Raz and Yoni Ben-Menahem on Peres' and 'Arafat's news conference at the Erez checkpoint in which Peres is recorded as saying in English: "May I say time and again, I believe the Oslo Agreement is being implemented. It takes a little bit more time, more difficulty, but we are changing almost daily the realities in the Gaza Strip. Today we have also agreed to have some industrial parks on the West Bank."

['Arafat is then recorded as saying in English: "This was a very important meeting, and we can say it was a fruitful meeting, at which we discussed in detail many issues, starting from the second stage and how to deal—both of us—in this line. And I have to repeat here again we are interesting to understand more and more the security needs of Israel in this second stage, and we can understand also what we have to do together to overcome all these obstacles together step by step in the next stage."]

Israeli-Palestinian Talks on Elections Held

Israel's Zohar Arrives for Cairo Talks

NC0901101495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—General Gadi Zohar, head of the civilian administration in the West Bank, arrived in Cairo this morning to lead the Israeli side at the Joint Elections Committee talks with Palestine.

The committee meetings are scheduled to begin later today. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority, will head the Palestinian side. The committee will continue preparations for elections in the West Bank and Gaza.

Talks Open in West Bank, Gaza Strip

NC0901130395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1202 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian-Israeli talks on legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip opened today.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority, chaired the Palestinian side while the Israeli side was led by Gadi Zohar, head of the civilian administration in the occupied West Bank.

Before the talks, Zohar told journalists: Today we will discuss holding Palestinian legislative elections. We hope the talks will be successful. He added: We will discuss all the issues in this round but I will not go into detail. We will discuss everything concerning elections. Zohar said the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will deal with every topical issue.

The three days of talks will deal with the proposed Palestinian legislative council's powers and the number of members. The Palestinian side is demanding that the council contain 100 members, while the Israeli side insists their number be only 25.

The Palestinian side is asking that the council should have broad legislative powers, while the Israelis want it to be merely a council to run the Palestinians' affairs, not including representatives from Arab Jerusalem. The Palestinian side rejects this and insists on having representatives from Jerusalem city.

The outcome of the 'Arafat-Peres meeting in Gaza today is expected to affect this round. Previous rounds have achieved no tangible progress on the elections issue.

'Syrian Sources' on Participation in Washington Talks

JN0601212695 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 Dec 94 p 21

[Report by 'Assaf 'Abbud in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] High-ranking Syrian sources have disclosed to AL-ITTIHAD the following points in Syria's stand on the recent Washington meetings:

1. Syria went to the Washington meetings to exchange views, pave the way to resume negotiations, and activate the peace process by ending the stalemate.

2. Israel tried to hint that the two sides were holding secret talks with the participation of Syrian officers. Therefore, Damascus announced Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi's participation and the results of the meetings.

3. The discussions centered on security on both sides of the border. Syrian sources said that Damascus went to Washington after declaring that it was ready to discuss security affairs on both sides of the borders of 4 June, 1967. But Israel insisted on discussing only its security and refusing to discuss any security commitments to Syria, as well as the relationship between security arrangements and the geographic region to which they will be applied. It also demanded Syrian security commitments and avoided including the said arrangements in maps. Syria rejected this.

4. The Israeli side insisted on maintaining Israeli early warning stations inside Syrian territory following the withdrawal. This position aborted the meetings because Syria believed these stations would violate Syria's sovereignty and that these demands were impossible and had nothing to do with serious steps in the peace process. Moreover, Israel asked Syria to downsize the Syrian Army.

5. The Syrian side believed that these impossible demands were aimed at foiling the meetings, preventing any specific results, and maintaining control of the Golan under various pretexts even after returning it

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nominally. By these movements, Israel wants to avoid withdrawal, which is the main goal of the security arrangements. [passage omitted]

Regarding al-Shihabi's participation in the meetings, observers in Damascus told the following to AL-ITTIHAD:

1. Sending an important figure of the Syrian Government to the view-exchange meetings indicates Syria's seriousness about negotiations and foils Israel's claim that Syria is not serious about the peace process.

2. Sending al-Shihabi will help the U.S. Administration to activate the negotiations and change Israel's positions and its impossible demands.

3. Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi's participation and the seriousness of the talks will improve Syrian-U.S. relations.

4. Syria is not embarrassed in any way by the negotiations as long as they serve its higher interests and guarantee its territorial rights. [passage omitted]

Iraq Asks Morocco To Mediate Contacts With Israel

TA0901110195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jan 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has asked Morocco to mediate between it and Israel and has relayed to King Hassan a proposal for contacts with Israel. The Iraqi message includes an explicit willingness to recognize Israel. According to a report from Rabat which reached Jerusalem this week the proposal was relayed by General 'Amal, a senior official in Saddam Husayn's regime who serves as Iraq's senior representative for negotiations with the United Nations.

Gen. 'Amal met a Moroccan minister in Baghdad several weeks ago and told him that Iraq has always supported the PLO and that now that the PLO has signed an agreement with Israel it is only logical to recognize Israel.

This message was conveyed to King Hassan. Political sources say that over the last few weeks similar messages have arrived in Israel from Iraq via other channels as well. Israel's official policy is to reject any contact with Iraq until the latter complies with all the UN resolutions. 'Ismat Qatani, an Iraqi diplomat who serves as a UN undersecretary general, visited Israel last month. Sources in the Foreign Ministry say Qatani is not involved in Israeli-related issues and that his visit was directed at internal UN affairs. According to the sources, this visit had no political significance, for although Qatani lunched with Yitzhaq Li'or, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry International Organizations Department, the meeting did not deal with relations between Iraq and Israel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Condemns Israeli Settlement Policy

NC0501135195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the conclusion of an extraordinary meeting of the Arab League's permanent representatives today, the Arab League Council condemned the Israeli occupation authorities' policy of exploiting the citizens as a pretext to expand and entrench the settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly in the Jerusalem area.

The Council maintained that this policy constitutes a blatant violation of UN resolutions and threatens to ruin the current peace process.

The Council issued a resolution demanding that the UN Security Council adopt immediate measures to compel Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 465 of 1980, which regards the settlements as illegal and calls for their immediate dismantlement.

The Arab League Council also called on the two sponsors of the peace process to seek by all available means to make Israel halt its settlement activity and observe Security Council resolutions.

It particularly urged the United States to compel Israel to abide by the conditions to which it committed itself when it obtained U.S. loan guarantees. Foremost of these conditions is to freeze the building of Israeli settlements in all Palestinian and Arab occupied territories.

The Arab League Council called on the Arab countries to hold more extensive contacts with concerned international circles to pressure Israel into halting its settlement drive in the occupied territories.

The Council instructed the Arab League secretary general to continue his contacts at all levels to implement the Council's resolution and submit a report on the result of his efforts to the next meeting of the Arab League Council.

Palestinian Envoy Warns of 'New Intifadah'

JN0501191095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's representative to the Arab League, has warned against the eruption of a new intifadah inside the occupied Palestinian territories should the policy of establishing Israeli settlements continue.

At a news conference he held at the end of an extraordinary Arab League Council meeting today, Subayh said Israel is dismembering the West Bank, and that the Israeli Army protects settlements.

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Subayh added: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin promised not to build new settlements. However, he is usurping Palestinian territories and establishing settlements.

Palestine's representative at the Arab League expressed his concern over the Israeli measures to destroy the al-Aqsa Mosque, stressing that the current excavations between Jerusalem and Silwan pose a threat to al-Aqsa Mosque.

League Plays Down Fears of Israeli Economic Domination

NC0901093795 Paris AFP in English 0839 GMT 9 Jan 95

[By Nadim Kawash]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Jan 9 (AFP)—The Arab League on Monday [9 January] sought to assuage fears by member states that Israel could control their resources if they joined it in an economic bloc in a peaceful Middle East.

Addressing a major economic conference in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the League's secretary general Ismat Abd-al-Majid said its 22 members should join each other in a regional economic alliance but stressed they must first end their political wrangling.

Abd-al-Majid, who has been entrusted with reconciling Arab nations after a deep Gulf war split, said there had been growing talk about a Middle East common market following a peace settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

"There have been fears that nearly 250 million Arabs could be swallowed by four million Israelis in such a market," he said.

"But I would like to stress here that such fears and concerns should not bother or worry us because the potential of our nation are enough to deal with all proposals with strength and determination, especially as we know that what Israel is seeking hinges on agreement by Arabs."

The United States, Israel and other countries have floated the idea of a Middle East common market that could also absorb Iran and Turkey.

They believe such a market would help regional states tap the enormous resources of the Middle East, home to more than 60 percent of the world's proven crude oil reserves of around one trillion barrels.

The market idea gained momentum after Israel signed a landmark peace deal with Palestinians and Jordan.

It was raised in an historic economic conference held in Morocco late last year and attended by more than 1,000 officials and businessmen from Israel and Arab nations, and other countries.

Arab officials have voiced concern that a merger of their economy with that of Israel could make the Jewish state dominant because of its superiority in the industrial sector.

Israel itself has dismissed such fears as its economy is much smaller than the Arab economy and it is seeking mutual cooperation that will see an exchange of technology and wealth between the two sides.

According to Arab League figures, the combined Gross Domestic Product [GDP] of the League's 22 members of around 470 billion dollars in 1993 accounted for nearly 10 times the Israeli GDP.

"We are a nation that possesses massive human and material resources which will enable it to set up an Arab Free Trade Area (AFTA)," Abd-al-Majid said.

"Such an area could the first step towards the establishment of an Arab economic group which will allow us to deal effectively with major world blocs."

"It will also be a protective fence for the Arab national security and help us to determine our moves towards the so-called Middle East common market."

Abd-al-Majid, an Egyptian, said the three-day conference was the first in the Middle East to cover a proposed "long-term Arab economic strategy."

But he added Arab countries must resolve "all political issues before even contemplating plans to establish economic cooperation."

More than 400 officials and experts from the Arab region and other countries and organisations are participating in the conference, which involves seven key issues, including domestic development, oil and petrochemicals, Arab economic future and relations with the European Union and other world blocs.

'Abd-al-Majid Rules Out Arab Summit in Feb

NC0801161095 Paris AFP in English 1438 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Jan 8 (AFP)—Arab League secretary general 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who arrived here Sunday [8 January] on the last leg of a Gulf tour, has failed to win support for holding an Arab summit next month.

'Abd-al-Majid ruled out the possibility of holding a summit of the 22-member League that he had predicted, when he left Cairo last week, would convene in February.

He told a press conference in Riyadh late Saturday that any reconciliation between Arab countries still deeply divided over the 1991 Gulf War was "dependent on Iraq applying all the UN Security Council resolutions."

An initiative launched in March 1993 to try to heal the rifts in the Arab world had only received the backing of

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14 out of the League members. "The others have their own approach," 'Abd-al-Majid added, without elaborating.

Arab countries were split over the intervention of a US-led coalition after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

'Abd-al-Majid started his tour in Kuwait on Monday before travelling on to Saudi Arabia where he met Saturday with the foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

He said his current tour had not been designed to prepare for an Arab summit. The last one was held in August 1990, just days after the Iraqi invasion.

'Abd-al-Majid is Monday to open an economic forum in Dubai, a member of the UAE federation, He is also to hold talks with UAE leaders during his five-day visit.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns Russia's Actions in Chechnya

LD0801234495 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Hamed Algabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has expressed the ICO's utmost concern and great sorrow about the situation in Chechnya.

In a statement issued on 8 January, the secretary general strongly condemned the barbaric military attack on Groznyy and on centers of civilian concentration that had led to the shedding of blood and extensive damage to property, and caused the most severe kinds of suffering to the Chechen people.

The secretary general pointed out that the use of indiscriminate force to strike against centers of civilian concentration did not only constitute a blatant breach of international humanitarian law, but was also aimed at destroying the most important and fundamental of human rights, including the right of the Muslim Chechen people to live.

Algabid urged the Russian Federation Government to reconsider its position, end the armed attacks, and create the circumstances that would lead to the opening of a serious dialogue with the Chechen leadership to find a peaceful solution to the problem in Chechnya.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 20 Dec

NC0601115495

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 20 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Egyptian Islamic Scholars Visit France
2. Columnist Criticizes Russia's Hostility to Islam

EGYPTIAN ISLAMIC SCHOLARS VISIT FRANCE

A 200-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi on page 2 says a delegation of Islamic Egyptian scholars left for Paris on 16 December as part of the implementation of the protocol signed between Egypt and France on "spreading Islamic culture" in France. The delegation includes Dr. Sufi Abu-Talbi, former People's Assembly speaker and professor at the College of Law in Cairo, and Shaykh 'Atiyah Saqr, chairman of the Fatwa Committee in al-Azhar. Prior to his departure, Dr. Abu-Talib said the delegation will focus on demonstrating the true image of Islam to the French people and on showing that Islam is a religion of "tolerance and peace" with all religions and that the "claims and lies" being spread against Islam aim to sow discord between Muslims and others. Meanwhile, Shaykh 'Atiyah Saqr said he will deliver lectures on women's rights in Islam and their effective role in society.

COLUMNIST CRITICIZES RUSSIA'S HOSTILITY TO ISLAM

A 300-word column by Bayuni al-Halawani on page 6 criticizes Russia for its "deep-rooted hatred" of Islam. He says the "Russians' hostility to Islam is not new or strange." "They have ruled the Islamic nations in Central Asia and in Russia with iron and fire." They have used against them all methods of repression and forced them to change their Islamic names. The writer adds that the "regrettable events" in Bosnia-Herzegovina have proved that the Russians' hostility to Islam "surpasses the hostility of their Serb allies." The Russians are supplying their Serb allies with weapons and equipment and adopting their views in UN circles and organizations. And last but not least, the column says, the Russians have "clearly" shown their "hostility to Islam" by declaring war on the Muslims in Chechnya. The writer says that the Russians aim to achieve several gains at the expense of the Muslims, not only in Chechnya but also in the current struggle in Bosnia. The Russians aim to fragment the positions of the Muslims and to divert their attention from their real battles in former Yugoslavia, Palestine, and elsewhere. The writer concludes by saying that the Muslims are not as weak as is imagined. They can be a force to be reckoned with if they unify their stands, return to their religion's teachings, and obey God's orders.

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 25 Dec

NC0801130695

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 25 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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CONTENTS:

1. Saudi Mufti Decrees Truce With Israel Permissible
2. Report on Muslims' Situation in Bangladesh
3. Muslims in Azerbaijan Need Ulema, Preachers, Religious Books
4. Ethiopian Government Responds to Muslims Demands
5. Muslim Population in Cameroon Growing
6. Article Calls For Supporting Iraqi People
7. Egyptian Education Minister's Policy Criticized
8. Writer Berates Recent Islamic Summit
9. Islamic Council Official Says Why Resigned
10. Parliamentarian Views Law on Alcohol
11. Article Criticizes Islamic Summit Resolutions

SAUDI MUFTI DECREES TRUCE WITH ISRAEL PERMISSIBLE

A 150-word report on page 1 says mufti of Saudi Arabia Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz has decreed that a permanent or temporary truce with Israel can be established. He said a truce with an enemy is permissible if Islam's interests call for such a measure.

REPORT ON MUSLIMS' SITUATION IN BANGLADESH

Page 2 features an approximately 850-word unattributed report on "problems" facing Muslims in Bangladesh. It says Bangladesh "is suffering a real tragedy and is faced with four dangers, primarily Christianization activities that are about to swallow this Muslim country."

The report includes an interview with Shaykh Muhyi-al-Din Khan, executive chairman of the Muslim Ulema Association in Bangladesh, who says proselytizers spend on their activities funds exceeding the budget of the entire country. He adds that the proselytizers claim that Islam is similar to Christianity and instill in Muslim women a sense of destitution and promote anti-Islamic ideas.

He explains that the proselytizers exercise their activities under the facade of charity organizations in Bangladesh and eastern India. He notes that other problems face Muslims in that area, including the activities of the Bahai sect, which uses girls to "lure students, merchants, lawyers, and government employees who seek a luxurious life." He says that "growing secularism" and Shiite activity also threaten Bangladeshi Muslims.

He points out that Muslim clerics and preachers in the country lack good education standards and need qualifications. He says media in Bangladesh and India are dominated by Christians and Hindus and that the same situation applies to South Asia, Sri Lanka, Burma, and Thailand, where Muslims have no effective media.

MUSLIMS IN AZERBAIJAN NEED ULEMA, PREACHERS, RELIGIOUS BOOKS

In an unattributed 120-word report on page 2 on Azerbaijan, the head of the Islamic administration there says Muslims in his country are in dire need of religious scholars, mosque imams, and religious literature.

ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO MUSLIMS DEMANDS

Also an unattributed 170-word report on the same page says: "At last the Ethiopian Government responded to some of the demands of Muslims who had demonstrated on Addis Ababa streets after the new draft constitution ignored Muslims' rights." The report adds that the government allowed the setting of Islamic religious courts and gave permission to Muslim-dominated schools to close on Fridays and Saturdays instead of Saturdays and Sundays. The report notes that the draft constitution had provided for separation between religion and state.

MUSLIM POPULATION IN CAMEROON GROWING

An approximately 400-word unattributed report on page 2 on the Islamic situation in Africa says: "The African Continent is witnessing a great increase in Muslim population, despite the ferocious challenges it is facing." It adds: "The Islamic upsurge in this black continent has achieved important, positive results, primarily the attraction of pagan tribes to embrace Islam until Islam has become dominant. Islamic institutions also succeeded in promoting the language of the Koran among the Muslims and in confronting every activity hostile to Islam and Muslims."

In the report, head of the Islamic council in Cameroon says the Muslim population's percentage to that of the country's population of 9 million has increased from 15 to more than 50 percent. He adds that the future of Islamic activity in Cameroon has good omens and that the number of pagan tribes embracing Islam is on the increase. He notes: "The interest of Islamic countries, mainly Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, in supporting Islamic institutions in Africa facilitates these institutions' task."

ARTICLE CALLS FOR SUPPORTING IRAQI PEOPLE

An approximately 450-word article by Mahmud Shukri on the same page calls for "serious and urgent Arab action to be followed by an international move to save our Arab people in Iraq from their plight and rescue them from their isolation and blockade."

EGYPTIAN EDUCATION MINISTER'S POLICY CRITICIZED

An approximately 750-word report by Muhammad Ahmad on page 3 criticizes the education minister's policy.

The author begins by asking: "What does Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din want? He says: "Since he took office, the minister has been attacking anything Islamic. With the increasing mutual tension

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between the government and extremist groups and while the State Security Detective Agency involves some teachers in these issues, the minister introduced disciplinary decisions. Under these decisions, any teacher or school with religious interests are transferred to administrative jobs, as was the case in al-Sharqiyah and al-Daqahliyah governorates."

The report notes that the minister's latest attempts was to destroy 12 million religious books in school libraries. The author says: "They did not publish the names of these books but contented themselves by saying these books belong to extremists and that they contain flaws and excesses."

WRITER BERATES RECENT ISLAMIC SUMMIT

Dr. Al-Sayyid Rizq al-Tawil writes an approximately 400-word article on page 3 lamenting Muslims' situation and criticizing the recent Islamic summit held in Casablanca.

He says: I expected the conferees to issue a resolution completely boycotting the state of the criminal Serbs and everyone who supports it without any shame or flattery for the Islamic nation whose resources they need."

ISLAMIC COUNCIL OFFICIAL SAYS WHY HE RESIGNED

An approximately 250-word unattributed report on the same page says Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim al-Fayyumi, secretary general of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs, resigned his job "last Tuesday." The report adds that Dr. al-Fayyumi said he resigned because he failed to implement his programs on which he had agreed with the awqaf minister, including the confrontation of the secularists' ideas. These secularists, he says, are now launching a ferocious campaign against the Islamists because they "cannot stand the mention of the word Islam," in addition to a rampant routine on the council.

PARLIAMENTARIAN VIEWS LAW ON ALCOHOL

Page 4 runs a 1,300-word interview with Shaykh Jamal Qutb, member of the People's Assembly, on the assembly's debate of draft laws.

Replying to a question on a law allowing the sale of alcohol only in tourist sites, he says: "Regrettably this law was passed ignoring the Islamic shari'ah principles that ban alcohol making and sale."

ARTICLE CRITICIZES ISLAMIC SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS

AL-NUR on page 8 features an approximately 1,200-word article by Dr. Mustafa al-Shak'ah, who criticizes the recent Islamic summit conference held in Casablanca.

He says the conferees should have been decisive and issued resolutions severing diplomatic ties with Russia; withdrawing Muslim ambassadors from Britain and France as a first step; and revoking accords signed with Russia, Britain, France, Greece, Bulgaria, and Serbia immediately.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 27 Dec

NC0701115795

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 27 December edition of the Arabic-language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Mubarak's Letter Describes 'AQIDATI as Voice of Moderation
2. Columnist Highlights Egypt's Moderate Policy
3. Islamic World League Denounces Israel's Policy on Jerusalem

MUBARAK'S LETTER DESCRIBES 'AQIDATI AS VOICE OF MODERATION

The newspaper publishes on page 1 the text of a 150-word letter which President Husni Mubarak sent to Samir Rajab, chief of the board of directors of 'AQIDATI, on the newspaper's second anniversary. In his letter Mubarak describes 'AQIDATI as "a voice of right against wrong, of moderation against extremism, of tolerance against fanaticism, of reason against superstition, and of science against ignorance." Mubarak adds that the newspaper has played a prominent role in spreading "correct Islamic culture" and contributed considerably to religious media enlightenment.

COLUMNIST HIGHLIGHTS EGYPT'S MODERATE POLICY

A 300-word article by columnist Basyuni al-Halawani on page 6 highlights Egypt's prominent position in the world. He says the trust which Egypt has won on the international level has not come from a vacuum but has been a natural result of "balanced stands" that support justice and reject all forms of transgression of the rights of others. Hence, Egypt's policy has been characterized by "moderation." The writer adds that in light of the worsening conditions in the Islamic world and the current "campaigns of genocide and ethnic cleansing" against Muslims in various parts of the world, the Islamic nations pin their hopes on Egypt in view of its international connections and relations and its "vanguard role as a strong Islamic state with political and military clout in the Middle East." The writer says that "thanks to its moderate policy," Egypt is capable of marshalling ranks and unifying efforts in support of "our stricken brothers" in Bosnia, Chechnya, and Palestine.

ISLAMIC WORLD LEAGUE DENOUNCES ISRAEL'S POLICY ON JERUSALEM

A 200-word report on 'AQIDATI's page 21 says the Islamic World League in Mecca has warned against the consequences of the Israeli policy toward the Islamic

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holy shrines in Jerusalem, including the al-Aqsa Mosque. The League calls on the international community to act to prevent the Israeli Government from implementing its plans to "judaize Arab Jerusalem and erase its Islamic character." The League further calls on the international community to take the necessary measures to assure the "justice that is lacking" in occupied Jerusalem.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Urges 'More' Opposition to Settlements

JN0701192395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Jan 95

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and head of the Palestinian Authority, to the inhabitants of Jericho at a gathering marking the 30th anniversary of the Palestinian Revolution, in Jericho on 7 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. When comes the help of God and victory, and thou does see the people enter God's religion in crowds, celebrate the praises of thy Lord, and pray for His forgiveness: For He is oft-returning in grace and mercy. [Koranic verse].

Brothers, beloved ones, and comrades in the march, I greet you, and I extend to you from deep within my heart a greeting of struggle and a greeting of jihad at the ceremony celebrating the intifadah, and the launching of the revolution on its 30th anniversary, the year of persistence and the new resurgence along our Palestinian people's solid course toward Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine and the first of the two qiblahs and the third holiest mosque from where the Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and mercy be upon him, ascended to heaven, and the cradle of Christ, peace be upon him.

Brothers and beloved ones, I announce to you from Jericho this declaration and this decision that we will soon proceed together to pray in Jerusalem, God willing. [applause] Yes, yes, I and those who launched the revolution, those who fired the first shot will be those who take the first step toward Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine. Yes, they are those to take the first step toward Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine. In this year, the year of the resurgence, the year of persistence, I call on you from here to unite our efforts. Let us unite all our forces, let us close ranks, and let us unite our people on the same road and in the same direction—that of building our Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. [applause] Truly, God loves those who fight in His cause in battle array, as if they were a solid cemented structure. [Koranic verse] Brothers, I tell you from here: Cling more and more to the land. Let us further entrench our roots on this land, yes, in confrontation of this cancerous settlement wave. Let us do more to defend this land, to defend this land. [applause]

Let the far and near know that this is the Palestinian decision. The decision that this will be the year of construction and liberation, the year of construction and liberation under the canopy of democracy and pluralism, the year of the sound step toward Jerusalem, toward Jerusalem, toward Jerusalem. [applause]

Brothers and beloved ones, I tell the martyrs with Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] at their head: The pledge is the pledge and the oath is the oath. I tell our brother and sister detainees with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin [applause] at their head that the pledge is the pledge and the oath is the oath, that we will continue to uphold the banner until a child from my country, from the intifadah children, from the children of the stones, a child from the RPG children raises the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem's walls and minarets. [applause] And to enter your temple as they had entered it before. [Koranic verse]

Brothers and beloved ones, I ask you now while we face all these challenges to work for more unity, more unity, more unity, and let us further close ranks, close ranks, close ranks. [applause]

Brothers, our unity is the best means and the strong shield on whose basis we can build our state, the state of independent, honest people, strugglers, and mujahidin, the state of democracy and pluralism, a state about which we can boast before the entire world. Yes, a state of which we can be proud before the entire world. A free state for free men, revolutionaries, strugglers, and fighters. [applause]

Brothers and beloved ones, again I tell you: Do not give in to despair that this, this, this Israeli entity seeks to interject into the Palestinian body through this settlement, do not let it pass. Defend the land. Defend the land. [people chant: "With blood, and with our souls, we are ready to die for you Abu-'Ammar"]. Do not say Abu-'Ammar. Say: With blood and our souls, we are ready to die for Palestine. Yes, my brothers and beloved ones: With our blood and our souls, we are ready to die for Palestine. [applause]

Let all understand that this people is the people of martyrs, that this people is the people of the revolutionaries, the people of the free men, that this people has mighty people. You are the mighty people. [applause]

Brothers and beloved ones, as I told you, we want to build a country of which we can be proud before the nations. This people is comprised of revolutionaries. We have offered hundreds of thousands of martyrs, hundreds of thousands of prisoners, and hundreds of thousands of wounded without our determination being dampened. I say, and I repeat what I say: O mountain, no wind can make you budge. O mountain, no wind can make you budge. [applause]

Christ, may God's peace be upon him, defied the devil from Jericho [words indistinct]. You defy this settlement, you defy those who try to build [words indistinct]

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and those who expand. You lead this course, this brilliant course to Jerusalem, to Jerusalem, to Jerusalem. [applause]

You and Gaza are the first liberated Palestinian lands. This course will continue until the Palestinian flag is raised over Jerusalem, over Jerusalem, over Jerusalem. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

'Urayqat on Settlements, Cairo Talks, Redeployment

JN0701174295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, PA minister of local government, by unidentified correspondent on 7 January; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Urayqat] [The Council of Ministers] discussed the political situation in general, and the peace process in light of the current settlement escalation in the Palestinian territories in particular. It also discussed Jerusalem and the settlement process in and around it. [passage omitted]

The council then reviewed the recent Liaison Committee meeting in Cairo, particularly the settlement process, Jerusalem, and the jailed brothers. During the Cairo meeting, we extracted a promise from Israeli Police Minister Shahal that he would review the issue this week and that responses would be ready by the time we meet his excellency the president. We hope that these responses will be positive and that our imprisoned brothers and sisters will be released gradually. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Dr. Sa'ib: Are there any new plans regarding elections and the expansion of the NA [National Authority; Palestinian Authority, PA] area?

['Urayqat] As you know, we are still discussing the issue of elections with the Israeli side. But, as we have previously said, we covered most topics. The main issues now is the redeployment of the Israeli forces. As you know, there are two stages for the redeployment. According to the first stage, these forces will redeploy outside residential areas like cities, villages, and Palestinian camps. Following the election, the second stage of redeployment will take place in specific areas in accordance with the agreement. I believe it is now important to begin the redeployment of the Israeli forces by withdrawing them outside our cities, villages, and camps. I also believe that elections cannot be held unless a redeployment takes place in accordance with the Declaration of Principles.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government of the NA.

['Urayqat] Thanks.

Al-Husayni: Negotiations Reach 'Dangerous Point'

NC0801110995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, has affirmed that negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis have reached a dangerous point, particularly in connection with the issues of settlements, the redeployment of the Israeli troops, the Palestinian elections, and the detainees.

During a stopover at Cairo airport on his way back from Britain today, al—Husayni said that apart from these basic issues, the Israelis have failed to change their mentality and way of thinking. This is clear in the recent attack near the entrance to Gaza, the way the Israeli troops deal with the Palestinian Authority, and the continued blockade of Gaza and Jericho that hurts economic conditions, he said.

Asked about the peace process, al-Husayni remarked that the continuation of negotiations will depend primarily on halting settlement activities. He noted that the continuation of the settlement campaign will eliminate all possibilities to achieve peace.

Al-Tarifi: Returnees, Families Welcome in PA Areas

JN0801203495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jamil al-Tarifi, official in charge of civilian affairs in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has stated that the returnees and their families can reside in the PA areas without any obstacles. Al-Tarifi told the "Good Morning Palestine" program today:

[Begin al-Tarifi recording] Anyone who returned and obtained approval and an identity card has the right to reside in the Palestinian Authority areas just like any Palestinian citizens who has been here for a long time. As for their families, each returnee has the right to bring in his family to reside here and to obtain an ID. Contacts are being held with the brothers in Egypt to facilitate the passage of Palestinians to Egypt through the Rafah crossing. Anyone passing without prior approval will be returned from the Rafah crossing. As I said, contacts are being held with them. I believe that within a short time, an Egyptian office will be opened in Gaza and Jericho. One of its tasks at present is to consider urgent cases in this regard; that is, channels with our Egyptian brothers to let the citizens pass. [end recording]

Al-Tibi Discusses Likud 'Clamor' Over 'Abbas Book

JN0801134295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 jan 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

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[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Ahmad al-Tibi.

[Al-Tibi] Yes.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, what is the reason behind the clamor being created at this particular time by the Israeli media over the book "The Road to Oslo" by brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]?

[Al-Tibi] It is known that there are internal party problems in Israel, particularly between the Labor and Likud parties. It is no secret to say that the Labor Party's popularity has recently not been good, if I can use such a modest expression. The Likud is trying to use everything to undermine the Labor Party and its popularity. Through its rejected way, it used some of the paragraphs in brother Abu-Mazin's book "The Road to Oslo" to claim that the Labor Party has colluded with the PLO to defeat the Likud, and to coordinate with it against the Washington talks, in addition to other baseless claims. The Palestinian leadership has not interfered, through these alleged meetings between Dr. Efrayim Sne and brother Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus, in the elections issue. These meetings were part of ordinary political meetings between Israeli officials and Palestinian figures.

[Correspondent] Yes, but what is the reason behind creating such clamor at this particular time, brother Ahmad?

[Al-Tibi] The reason is the Likud's desire to deal one blow after another to the Labor Party. This can be proved by the repeated opinion polls in Israel, which say that the labor Party's popularity has dropped. The Likud wants to exploit this decline which will lead to another stronger decline. This is why it published quotes from brother Abu-Mazin's book which was published three months ago in London by the newspaper AL-HAYAH, and later by the newspaper HA'ARETZ. This is a fabricated clamor which is aimed at making internal party achievements and winning over Israeli public opinion. As I said yesterday, including these papers in brother Abu-Mazin's book does not mean that they are correct, but these papers have already arrived in Tunis. I had wished that these papers would not have been published in a book by an important leader; namely, brother Abu-Mazin. However, what happened has happened. As brother Abu-Mazin himself said, and as the Palestinian leadership and brother President Abu-'Ammar said, there was no coordination regarding elections and competition between the Labor and Likud parties. This is an internal Israeli affair.

[Correspondent] Will this issue reflect negatively on the peace process?

[Al-Tibi] I do not think so, but it will reflect negatively on the Labor Party's popularity within the next few days. As the case with all storms, this storm will end within two or three days, or this week, until the next storm comes. I expect that as a strong opposition party, the Likud will every time try to deal a blow to the Labor Party regarding a different issue. This storm will continue until the time of the next storm.

[Correspondent] But there are other people who say that there have also been contacts between the PLO and the Likud. So, why do they ignore this aspect and reveal the other?

[Al-Tibi] This specifically proves what I say to the effect that the Likud has blown the issue out of proportion. Yesterday I sarcastically said that I am pleased to see that Netanyahu has begun to adopt what is being said by some Palestinians. I wish he would continue on this road and adopt the Palestinians' right to call for the establishment of a Palestinian state, and admit that the Palestinians have a genuine desire for peace. I also called on Netanyahu to believe the book's reference to the Likud and the contacts which were held between the Likud and PLO leaders. However, the Likud's approach is a selective one, which has a very restricted party objective.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ahmad al-Tibi, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, thank you.

[Al-Tibi] Thank you.

Likud-Labor Rivalry, 'Abbas Book Controversy Seen

JN0801180495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1550 GMT 8 Jan 95

[Commentary by Ibrahim Milhim: "Storm on the Road to Oslo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The tempest in a teacup created by the opposition rightist Likud party against the ruling Labor Party in light of information published in Mahmud 'Abbas', Abu-Mazin's, book, The Road to Oslo—and the Palestinian denials in this connection—demonstrates the difficult path of the Palestinian-Israeli peace march. The peace process is about to reach the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement, a phase that should have started three months ago. The delay is a result of the Israeli government's stalling to avoid meeting the peace requirements; namely, redeploying the Israeli Army outside the Palestinian populous areas preparatory to holding the Palestinian legislative elections and completing the elements of Palestinian sovereignty on all the occupied territories in accordance with the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP].

Undoubtedly, the rightist and leftist Israeli reactions to Abu-Mazin's statements are within the framework of settling scores within the historical rivalry between these two parties. By raising this storm, the Likud is trying to woo the Israeli electorate and instigate them against the ruling Labor Party and topple it in order to realize its expansionist ambitions, thus returning all things to square one with all the dire consequences this involves,

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not only for the Palestinians, but also for the Israelis and the peace and security of the region and the world.

The furor, the opposition Likud continues to stir up against the ruling Labor Party, is gathering momentum. Meanwhile, more land is being usurped, more agreements frozen, and thousands of detainees are behind bars. The only reason for this is that the Labor Party wants to deny the charge that it wanted to win the PLO's votes in the last elections. This new-old game raises its head whenever a date to implement an agreement approaches or whenever a phase passes away and a new one begins in implementation of the Oslo DOP.

In any case, and regardless of the heated battle between the opposition Likud and the ruling Labor Party, which is the partner in the peace process, the Likud-Labor rivalry should not force the Labor Party to renege on its agreements and turn its back to its obligations, which it should implement in response to the spirit of peace. The Palestinian-Israeli peace should remain outside any domestic calculations or differences in the same way it is outside any pressures exerted by this or that Palestinian opposition party to stop the negotiations.

Therefore, the Palestinian-Israeli partnership in the peace march is governed by strategic principles in which both sides find joint interests. There are also global interests that obliges the two sponsoring countries, the United States and Russia, the task of honest and accurate monitoring of the implementation of all the DOP principles without stalling or delay.

In conclusion, we say that in order to protect the peace march against all attempts to reverse it, the first requirement is to immediately begin implementing the remainder of the DOP including the expansion of the National Authority areas, the redeployment of the Israeli Army, the holding of legislative elections, the unconditional release of all detainees, and an immediate halt to usurping the land and building settlements, which constitute a serious threat to the peace march.

Commentary Views Upcoming Erez, Cairo Talks

JN0901084195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Jan 95

[Station commentary by Fathi Barqawi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Highly important meetings will be held today at the Erez crossing point and in Cairo. They are part of previous Palestinian-Israeli meetings. So, are things going to remain the same?

Despite the passing of more than seven months since the signing of the Cairo agreement, Israel is still procrastinating over all the substantive issues related to the peace process. In addition, it has become even more clear that among the primary goals of Yitzhaq Rabin's government is to seize more Palestinian land in the West Bank, set up more Jewish settlements or expand exisiting ones.

The escalation of settlement activity over the past weeks has created an atmosphere of lack of confidence. The highly-charged atmosphere created by the Jewish settlers, supported by the Israeli Government and Army, has made the Palestinian side skeptical of what is going on.

Today's talks at Erez and in Cairo are not the first, and will certainly not be the last. We hope, however, that they will mark a real beginning of serious talks to promote peace efforts and implement agreements concluded between the two sides. This cannot be achieved if settlers continue their wrongdoings and if the Rabin government continues to adhere to its position, which is based on obtaining both land and peace, something which the Palestinians vehemently reject.

Journalists Reject PA Requirements for Press Cards

TA0901152295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 6 Jan 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PNA [Palestinian National Authority; Palestinian Authority, PA] Culture & Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh held a meeting with Na'im Toubasi, president of the Arab Journalists Association, to discuss cooperation between the two sides.

The minister confirmed that there should be full cooperation with the union without interfering in the independence of the press as a non-governmental association.

As for the press cards which the ministry has decided to issue for journalists, the minister said it does not contradict or replace the unions' press card. "We are not requiring its carrier to be a member of the union."

He added that the aim of issuing the press card is to assist the work of Palestinian, Arab and foreign journalists, in cooperation with the union.

Zakariya Talmas, treasurer of the Journalists' League in Gaza declared later that only three journalists would meet the strict Palestinian National Authority requirements for receipt of the press card.

He explained that the three journalists—Ahmad Abu-Lashin, Hikmat Barzak and Hasan Wahidi—are dead.

Talmas added that the Journalists' League does not oppose issuing press cards but is concerned with who will have the right to carry them. "One of our great fears is that the press card issued by the union would be canceled. In addition, the Information and Media Ministry demands that every journalist sign an oath to respect the law of publications, which by the way does not exist."

He added that Palestinian journalists were appalled at the idea of signing an oath compelling them to abide by law which does not yet exist. "This means they could be committing themselves to a law that might limit freedom of press."

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He explained that the actual publication law being used by the PNA dates back to 1939 and the British Mandate era, and does not cover new media like television and news agencies.

"This law suits printing presses but not journalists. After the strike of journalists last Saturday, they told us that there is a new and temporary Palestinian press law still awaiting discussion."

Talmas declared that according to the conditions set by the ministry to carry a press card, not a single journalist from Gaza will be qualified to hold it during the next four years.

He pointed out that there are basic problems like the fact that most Palestinian journalists in Gaza work for local, Arab and international media and do not have contracts. "Therefore, none of them can fulfill the conditions of the ministry and cannot prove they are working with these agencies."

He added that a PNA advertisement regarding the issue said that even if a journalist has fulfilled all conditions, this does not mean that he can get the press card. "This means that the decision to offer press cards to journalists will depend on the mood of the official."

Talmas argued that the PNA should respect the press card issues by the Journalists' League.

"The ministry should have thought about supporting the league like in every other country of the world. For example in France, the government pays $10 million every year to the French Journalists' Union. It seems that the ministry does not realize that a number of new publications are being issued in Gaza which employ many professionals who cannot get the PNA press card."

He called on President Yasir 'Arafat to end a procedure which could make many journalists unemployed in Gaza and the West Bank.

Talmas ended his talk by saying the Journalists' League is not fighting against the PNA press card but is discussing logical ways and basis to find ways of cooperation with the Palestinian National Authority.

PFLP Claims Credit for Killing Jewish Settler

NC0701095395 Paris AFP in English 0902 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Jan 7 (AFP)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said Saturday [7 January] it carried out the killing of a Jewish settler on the occupied West Bank to avenge four Palestinians slain earlier in the week.

The woman aged 20 died and another settler was wounded when assailants opened fire as they overtook the Israelis' car on a busy road in the Ramallah area on Friday.

The PFLP carried out the attack to avenge the killing of four Palestinians by an Israeli army undercover unit in the same area two days earlier, a member of the group told AFP by telephone.

According to military sources, two members of the PFLP, which is opposed to Israel's autonomy deal with the PLO, were among the dead.

Hamas Denies Bomb Threat to Argentine Embassy

JN0901121095 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 9 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] has denied a REUTER report about a so-called threat addressed to the Argentine Embassy in Paraguay.

In a press statement, Hamas said this report is groundless, and reiterated its stand that the armed struggle it wages is against the usurper Zionist enemy and that Palestine is the arena of this struggle.

Hamas said that such news should be verified before it is disseminated, and stressed that these fabricated reports seek to defame the Hamas Movement's stands and its honorable militant struggle against the Zionist occupiers. Hamas also stressed that it is eager to enhance relations with all people and countries in the world to garner support for the Palestinian people and their just cause, and for their legitimate resistance to injustice and occupation.

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Algeria

Responses to Threat Against Foreign Embassies

Deadline for Closing Passes

NC0601203895 London MBC Television in Arabic 1945 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tomorrow is the deadline given by an armed group in Algeria to foreign countries to shut down their embassies. In an exclusive interview with MBC done by Mufida Hachani in Tunis, Algerian Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane-Cherif made it clear that the government has taken the necessary measures to protect the concerned embassies.

[Begin Meziane-Cherif recording] The objective of this deadline is to create a psychological state of mind and psychosis. All I would like to say is that we are in control of the situation. We have offered all the possible facilities and full protection to our guests in Algeria. With regard to this point in particular, I say that the current control of the situation should at least make the diplomatic corps, in particular, respect the statements we issue on a daily basis. Through their representatives in Algeria, the western governments have been very well informed about the situation. As for distributing [words indistinct], it is nothing more than the continued behavior and tradition of this group. [end recording]

More From Meziane-Cherif

LD0701102395 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The threats by the Armed Islamic Group against Western embassies in Algiers are being taken seriously by the countries concerned. In order to avert terrorist actions Canada, Great Britain, and Germany yesterday sent experts to Paris, where they had a meeting with the French foreign affairs minister. It is also known that Germany has sent antiterrorism specialists to Algiers to protect its embassy.

The Algerian authorities say they are in control of the situation. Rida Boughezi interviewed Algerian Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif.

[Begin Cherif recording] In my opinion the threats by the terrorists against the embassies in Algiers are simply a repetition and a redistribution of tracts through which their writers are trying to cause confusion and create a climate of anxiety and fear.

It could also be the work of manipulators who do not belong to terrorist groups; it could be the work of people out for revenge; it is certainly the work of terrorist groups. [sentence as heard]

I do not think it important or useful to hold forth or to rack our brains too much about this issue. Algeria long ago took all the necessary measures to guarantee the property and security of diplomatic personnel. [end recording]

Reportage on National Dialogue Meeting Abroad

Presidency Condemns Initiative

LD0701202595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jan 95

[Statement by President Liamine Zeroual's office issued in Algiers on 7 January—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] A number of Algerian political personalities and parties recently agreed to transfer the national political dialogue abroad to hold it under alien auspices and foreign pressures. We are now witnessing a similar event to the one held in Rome last November. The Algerian authorities had expressed their categorical rejection of this endeavor which harms national sovereignty and invites foreign intervention in our internal affairs.

Those who made this initiative tried to claim, at the time, that the matter was a mere information meeting. However, the fact has been exposed in daylight with the fresh meeting in Rome.

There is a foreign party which admits taking the initiative of organizing a discussion with the aim of reaching an alleged solution to problems that concern the Algerians alone. And there are Algerians who have accepted to participate in this foreign intervention attempt.

The Algerian authorities condemn and deplore this foreign initiative to interfere in Algeria's internal affairs. Algeria which has continuously adhered to the principles governing international relations and especially the principle of non-interference, cannot permit foreign interference in its national affairs. The Algerian authorities strongly condemn, once again, the behavior of some national political personalities and parties for their violation of the national laws. Behavior like this is bound to harm the sovereignty of the Algerian people, its independence, and dignity.

It is worth referring here to a number of facts which no one can conceal whether inside or outside Algeria:

(1) Who has remained aloof and calm before the murder of innocent Algerians and before the barbaric destruction of national property?

(2) Who has rejected participation in the national reconciliation during the national conference held in June last year?

(3) Who has rejected dialogue and also worked to obstruct it?

(4) Who is always insisting on rejecting the national dialogue which nevertheless remains open to all on the condition that all must respect its framework and constants?

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(5) Who is refusing the people's arbitration through democratic elections?

To answer these questions by providing the opportunity for foreign intervention reveals the true intentions of those who seek power for the sake of power only, even if it is at the expense of Algeria.

The Algerian state will shoulder its responsibilities in preserving national sovereignty and independence, in maintaining order and security, and in promoting real democracy through which the Algerian people will decide its fate by itself. It is also up to the Algerian people to raise its voice and defend its national sovereignty.

This people, which is bravely resisting the attempt to undermine its achievements, is the one primarily concerned as its homeland, independence, and the heritage of its martyrs are at stake.

FFS Leader on Participation Goals

LD0801202095 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At this moment the Algerian opposition is meeting in Rome under the auspices of a Catholic community close to the Vatican. In Algiers, the authorities have protested against what they believe is a call for foreign interference, yet this is a key meeting that could determine the future of the country. The FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] spokesman abroad might take part in this meeting. Catherine Jentile and Philippe Leroux report from Rome:

[Jentile] The Vatican diplomatic services are not relaxing their efforts. The Algerian opposition is meeting inside Roman palaces, almost secretly, for the second time in less than two months. This meeting behind closed doors is meant to guarantee the seriousness that traditionally goes together with major political decisions. The stake is significant: The goal is to find common ground here, in Rome, in order to put an end to the war that will not say its name, which is taking place in Algeria:

[Begin Hocine Ait Ahmed, Socialist Forces Front (FFS) secretary-general, recording] It is important for us to have talks on a solid, clear, and unambiguous basis. Our ambition is to put an end to violence, to find a process toward the restoration of civilian peace, and to set up the transitional institutions simultaneously. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further FFS Comment

LD0801230295 Rome RAI Due Television Network in Italian 2223 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] Several Algerian opposition leaders are meeting today in Rome. They are involved in a second round of talks to find a solution to the civil war in their country. The initiative, sponsored by the Sant'Egidio community, has been severely criticized by the Algerian Government which, according to the local press, may decide to prosecute those talking part in the talks. We have interviewed the representative for the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], Hocine Ait Ahmed.

[Begin recording] [Ait Ahmed, in French with superimposed Italian translation] We do not carry out politico-intellectual terrorism. Let's say that each party has its own program, its view of society. Everybody should accept the democratic solution—to go towards a transition, with a multi-party administration, not a unilateral government, a one or single party administration. There should be an Algerian civilian administration.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think that the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] will support this, not being the sole party in power?

[Ait Ahmed] We will try to get the FIS, as soon as possible, to transform its condemnation of attacks on civilians and foreigners into a key and credible part of its policy. [end recording]

National Council Comments

LD0801215995 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the evening session of the Transitional National Council, some members criticized some political groups for responding to the Sant'Egidio invitation. The evening session was devoted to members' interventions, which focused on a number of issues, including the Houari Boumedienne airport incident.

[Unidentified correspondent] After the review submitted by the head of government yesterday on the various aspects and the extent of implementation of the transitional program during the second half of 1994, the general debate of the council continued this afternoon. [passage omitted]

One of the members spoke on the French Airbus incident and stressed the need to intensify security measures and apply them to all passengers whatever their position so that similar incidents do not recur, which might harm the reputation of our country and affect it internally and externally.

Regarding the second Rome meeting [of Algerian political parties], which is expected to be held tomorrow, one of the members strongly condemned the fact that Algerians are resorting to a foreign country to discuss their internal affairs, particularly when the action was initiated by individuals who have assumed responsibility for running the country. [passage omitted]

Government Program Defended

LD0701202995 Rome RAI Uno Television Network in Italian 1900 GMT 7 Jan 95

[Interview with Mourad Benachenhou, minister for industrial restructuring and partnership, by correspondent Bruno Mobrici in Algiers; date not given—

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recorded; Benachenhou speaks in Arabic with superimposed Italian translation]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Mobrici] [passage omitted] What can be done about fundamentalism? Mourad Benachenhou, minister of industrial restructuring and partnership answers. He is the man charged with restructuring Algeria:

[Benachenhou] The solution to Algeria's problems is in political and economic objectives. First, economic growth must be strengthened, inflation reduced from 30 to 10 percent, investment restarted, and encouragement given to the private sector, which currently only accounts for 35 percent of the gross domestic product. Politically, dialogue must continue with all partners [as heard], who have renounced violence, and presidential elections must be organized.

[Mobrici] Minister, which is the most serious economic and social problem?

[Benachenhou] The first problem is prices, so the purchasing power of wage earners must be strengthened. The other major issue is unemployment. New jobs are needed immediately.

[Mobrici] The terrorist ultimatum to Western embassies in Algiers expires in a few hours' time. Do you think it is a real danger?

[Benachenhou] All this is odious. The government will strengthen the security of the embassies and we will make the attempts of those who seek to isolate our country diplomatically fail.

FLN Leader on Contacts With FIS Leaders

MM0601164195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Liberation Front Met With Madani and Belhadj"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—New indications emerged in Algeria yesterday about the possibility of breaking the political deadlock the country has been experiencing since President Liamine Zeroual announced the failure of the dialogue with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] last October. National Liberation Front [FLN] Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri announced that he met yesterday with FIS leaders Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj and that he discussed with them ways of finding "a comprehensive way out of the crisis." [passage omitted]

Asked yesterday about the FLN's announcement that it would begin contacts with Algerian parties in preparation for holding a "national conference" in the country soon, Mehri told AL-HAYAH: "Initially these contacts include all the political forces espousing a political solution and dialogue as a means of securing a solution." He added that the FLN has actually begun its contacts in preparation for the conference. And that a delegation from it visited FIS leaders Shaykhs Madani and Belhadj yesterday in their residence in Djinan El Mufti in the capital. And that the delegation discussed with them developments in the situation in the country, ways of "finding a comprehensive way out," and the FLN's initiative. He pointed out that in the next few days the FLN will continue its contacts with the Algerian political parties and figures. [passage omitted]

Asked about the FIS leaders' response to his party's initiative, the FLN secretary general said that the meeting with them "is a preliminary contact in which we explained our view. I believe that convening a national conference is a duty dictated by the Algerian scene as a whole, but of course, it requires further consultations." [passage omitted]

Prime Minister: Elections To Be Held on Schedule

LD0801132395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi has announced that from now on the government will be working on preparing and providing the material and organizational conditions for holding the presidential elections on their fixed dates. This announcement was made during his review of the state of implementation of the government program for the transitional period before members of the Transitional National Council yesterday. He has also revealed that his government will very shortly come back to the Transitional National Council to present the legislative framework which will govern these elections. [passage omitted]

Newspaper, Radio Correspondents Killed

LIBERTE Correspondent Killed

NC0601194795 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Algiers, Jan 6 (AFP)—Suspected Islamic guerrillas Friday [6 January] shot dead a reporter for the country's largest French-language daily and seriously wounded a radio journalist in their continuing campaign to silence Algeria's media.

Zine Eddine Aliou Salah, of the French-language daily Liberte, was killed, in an attack thought to have been carried out by Islamic radicals, near his house in the Khazrouma neighborhood of Algiers, his newspaper said.

Radio reporter Ali Abboud was shot in the head in a separate attack in the southern suburbs of the Algerian capital, Algerian radio said.

Abboud was taken to military hospital at Ain Naadja, colleagues at the radio station said, and was in a serious condition.

Salah, 35, a married father of two, was a well-known investigative journalist here whose latest stories covered

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the Christmas Eve hijacking of an Air France jetliner in Algeria and its storming in France.

The Islamic Salvation Army vowed to put him to death "even in Mecca" in a recent issue of its weekly newspaper, Al-Fath al-Moubine (Total Victory).

Salah was returning to his apartment after going out to buy some milk when he was attacked by two men out of a group of four waiting outside in a car, witnesses said.

He was shot in the stomach, the chest and the head. [passage omitted]

Radio Correspondent Dies

LD0701111195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers Radio staff and the media community in general are saddened by the news of the death of our correspondent 'Ali Abboud, who yesterday was the target of an assassination attempt near his home, in the Algiers suburb of Birkhadem. He was shot once in the head, and was then rushed to Ain Naadja military hospital. He fought for his life, but died this morning. [passage omitted]

Ali Abboud is the second radio journalist to be killed by terrorists, following that of Tayeb Bouterfif, and the 27th Algerian journalist to be murdered so far.

Special Court To Examine FIS Leaders' Cases

LD0801204095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement from the office of the state prosecutor at the Special Court in Algiers said that the cases of Abdelkader Hachani leading FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] member, member of the FIS Consultative Council, and Okba Madani will be examined by the Special Court in Algiers on 28th and 29th January.

To recall, Abdelkader Hachani is accused of deliberately publishing false and tendentious information aimed at harming national interests and national unity, in accordance with Clauses 86 and 87 of the Media Law.

Okba Madani is accused of forming armed terrorists groups, in accordance with Clauses One, Three, and Seven of the Legislative Decree dated September 1992.

Berber Cultural Movement Extends School Boycott

LD0801174695 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the Berber Cultural Movement [MCB] decided this Sunday to extend the school boycott heeded in Kabylie since last September.

The MCB also maintained its call for a national march on 12 January in support of its demands: That Tamazight be recognized by the state as an official language, and that it be taught in schools.

Manpower Agreement Reached With Libya

LD0801234895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the sphere of Algerian-Libyan cooperation, the recent meetings of the Algerian-Libyan Experts Committee led to the signing of an agreement in the employment field. The signing was presided over by Mohamed Achoubi, the minister of labor and social protection, at the ministry offices, and attended by Yahia Kaidoum, the minister of health and population.

Algeria is expected to send another batch of Algerian workers to Libya. This will bring the number of Algerians working in the health sphere in Libya to 450.

The Algerian-Libyan agreement includes a number of other sectors, such as education, vocational training, housing, transport, and communications. The agreement will be undertaken by agencies that will determine Libya's manpower requirements.

Restructuring Minister on Five Target Companies

LD0601195695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mourad Benachenhou, the industrial restructuring and participation minister, said in a news conference yesterday that the enterprises concerned with becoming independent, i.e. packaging, paper, and cellulose, SEDER [steel and iron], National Industrial Vehicles Company, and the Equipment and Public Works, require a comprehensive rehabilitation at the cost of 81 billion dinars, 19 billion dinars of which were for the SEDER enterprise. The state might contribute around one-third of this amount in support.

According to the special study of these five enterprises, the clean-up operation involves the redistribution of their human resources during the period between 1995-1997.

According to the same study, 13,300 workers will be directed to the subsidiary sectors; 6,100 other workers will be pensioned off or given early retirement; and 2,700 workers will be directed to receive training for adapting their qualifications.

There would also be another number who leaves voluntarily and yet another number who would be dismissed for economical reasons. According to Mourad Benachenhou, the minister of restructuring and participation, the possibility of losing jobs is slim, and would not have a strong social impact. He pointed out that the reform plans were drawn up in consultation between the directors of those enterprises and the workers' representatives. The minister said that the condition of other enterprises would be examined over the coming months.

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Five Billion Dollar Debt Rescheduling Announced

LD0801104695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi yesterday addressed the members of the Transitional National Council and presented the results achieved by the implementation of the program of the transitional period. He told them that the rescheduling of foreign debts had enabled Algeria to provide resources estimated at over nine billion dollars.

Sifi pointed out that despite a drop of about 1.2 billion dollars in oil and gas revenues, compared with those earned in 1993, these resources made it possible to increase the volume of imports to over nine billion dollars last year, compared with 8.2 billion dollars in 1993.

The prime minister added that bilateral agreements on the rescheduling of Algerian debts had been signed with 16 public creditors and that an agreement was due to be signed with Italy this month. He also said that these agreements led to the rescheduling of five billion dollars over a 16 year period.

Sifi said that the nine billion dollars which Algeria made available in 1994 had been distributed as follows:

—2.2 billion dollars for the purchase of foodstuffs and medicines.

—3.4 billion dollars for intermediary consumption materials used to operate the system of production

—2.2 billion dollars for capital equipment.

The rest of the money was used for the purchase of industrial consumer goods.

The prime minister also noted that the gross domestic product had increased by about 0.2 percent after it had dropped by 2.2 percent in 1993.

With regard to stabilizing the accounts of local state-owned companies, the prime minister said that in-depth studies which covered 1,297 companies employing over 230,000 people had led to the following conclusions:

—88 companies will have to be closed down, in accordance with the current legislation.

—199 companies are exploitable and will not need to have their accounts stabilized.

—793 companies, which are now exploitable, have had their accounts stabilized with a treasury contribution estimated at 30 billion dinars.

—217 companies will need a special treatment and will require about eight billion dinars to stabilize their accounts.

Sifi said that the government's main concern was to build a large number of apartments, better, at lower cost, and as quickly as possible because of the shortage estimated at 1.2 million apartments. He also stressed the need to meet the additional annual demand estimated at about 250,000 apartments.

Egypt

Reportage on U.S. Defense Secretary Perry's Visit

Perry Arrives in Cairo

NC0701064295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2326 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry arrived in Cairo this evening [6 January] for a two-day visit to Egypt at the start of a tour that will also take him to Israel, India, and Pakistan.

Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi will hold talks with his U.S. counterpart on boosting military cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

Perry was received at the airport by Field Marshal Tantawi, a number of armed forces commanders, and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker.

Meets With President Mubarak

NC0701085995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0752 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry at the Presidential Office this morning. Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker attended.

Also present at the meeting were Joseph Maine, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for national security; General Havey Dang, director of the U.S. military aid office in Cairo; and U.S. National Security Council member Willipson [names as transliterated].

Perry arrived in Cairo last night.

Military Talks Open

NC0701125795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1152 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Jan (MENA)—Egyptian-U.S. military talks opened at the Defense Ministry at noon [1000 GMT] today, chaired by Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, commander in chief of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, and U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry. The talks deal with bilateral military ties and ways to develop them.

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The two ministers held a half-hour closed meeting followed by an expanded session of talks including members of both sides. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi attended the session.

Perry was accorded a state reception on his arrival at the Defense Ministry.

Speaking at the beginning of the session, Field Marshal Tantawi affirmed that the U.S. defense secretary's visit to Egypt takes on great importance in light of the special and distinguished relations between the two countries' armed forces.

He noted that the Gulf war, the events in Somalia, the recent Gulf crisis, and the situation in Bosnia and around the world have confirmed the importance of these relations, which have been expanded through joint training exercises which are developing and growing every year.

He said Egypt believes in peace and is concerned to back and advance it so that security and peace can be established in the region. He added that these facts are essential in formulating Egypt's approaches and defining the fundamental features of Egypt's policy, which are directly based on a defensive strategy. Through this strategy, he noted, the armed forces are being rebuilt on the basis of reducing manpower and giving precedence to quality over quantity.

Perry expressed his appreciation for the Egyptian leadership, which is working for peace and noted Egypt's role and cooperation on numerous peace efforts, such as the Somalia and Bosnia issues.

He said there are various fields for joint cooperation between the two countries and asserted that Egyptian-U.S. relations are based on mutual understanding regarding all world events.

Departs After 2-Day Visit

NC0801095895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry left Cairo this morning following a two-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Mubarak.

While here, the U.S. secretary held talks with Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, on bilateral military relations.

Musa Comments on Jerusalem, Threat Against Iran

NC0801180395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt will make its position clear on the issue of Jerusalem at the upcoming meeting of the Jerusalem Committee in Morocco.

In a statement today, Musa added that during its meeting the committee will discuss ways to preserve East Jerusalem and its future, as it is part of the occupied Arab territories. He noted that no final position has been taken in this regard until now.

The foreign minister met today with Nayif al-Qadi, Jordan's ambassador in Cairo, to review bilateral ties between Egypt and Jordan, the question of Jerusalem, and the Middle East peace process.

Asked about Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks that Jerusalem is outside the negotiating process, Musa stated that the status of Jerusalem can be determined only at the negotiating table. He emphasized that the annexation of Jerusalem is illegitimate, as it constitutes a unilateral and unrecognized act. The future of Jerusalem depends on the outcome of the negotiations, he added.

In response to a question about expanding the Israeli settlements, the foreign minister said that Egypt had stressed the illegitimacy of settlements and that they constitute an obstacle to peace. Building new settlements or expanding the existing ones could have a negative impact on the peace process. Musa added that the building of settlements leads to the seizure of Arab territories, which is an unlawful act that violates international law and poses an extremely serious threat to the peace process.

The foreign minister noted that an unhealthy atmosphere shrouds the Syrian and Palestinian tracks, particularly the latter. He noted in this regard that Egypt is closely following the Palestinian-Israeli talks, which will resume in Cairo tomorrow.

Asked about Israel's threats to hit any nuclear installations in Iran, Musa stated that such a threat takes the region back to an earlier era, the era of threatening to use force. Iran, he added, is a signatory to the agreement preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and if there are accusations against it they must be presented to the world community via conventional channels, be they the Security Council or the International Atomic Energy Agency. Egypt believes that the time of threatening aggression and using force has long since been gone, and minds must be changed accordingly. He stressed that the use of force will take things back to point zero once again.

Musa, touching on another topic, stressed that Egypt takes an interest in Africa's peacekeeping mechanism and seeks to push things in that direction and enhance the role of that mechanism.

Musa, MK Darawshah Discuss 'Palestine,' Israel

NC0801154895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Israeli [Arab]

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Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah who is currently visiting Cairo.

Darawshah stated after the meeting that during the meeting, they exchanged opinions on the peace process in the region, the situation of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], and the conditions of the Arab citizens inside Israel.

In his statement, 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah described the Israeli measures regarding settlement and expansion in Jerusalem and the Palestinian territories as illegal. He said: We will be demanding that this settlement be stopped because it is an obstacle in the way of the peace process and because it violates the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

The Israeli Knesset member added that Israel's current measures in Jerusalem are what urge the Jerusalem issue onto the negotiating table. He affirmed the importance of having eastern Jerusalem become the capital of the State of Palestine.

He noted what he described as "Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's hesitation in implementing the Oslo and Cairo agreements between the Israeli and Palestinian sides, particularly with regard to the redeployment of the Israeli forces, holding elections in the Palestinian areas, and non-withdrawal from the Golan Heights." He said that this will complicate the stand further and might make the peace process explode.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah praised the role Egypt—president, government, and people—is playing in supporting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and a state.

He said that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, which will resume Monday [9 January] in Cairo, will face many difficulties resulting from the Israeli side's insistence on not redeploying the forces and not holding elections, as well as its support for the settlement policy.

He expressed his hope that Palestinian elections will be held as soon as possible. He affirmed that President 'Arafat will win a majority in these elections.

He asked the international community and peace-loving nations to put pressure on Israel to make it stop all aspects of its settlement policy, because peace cannot be realized while settlements continue to be built.

Jordanian Ambassador Meets With Musa

NC0801144495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met today with Jordanian Ambassador Nayif al-Qadi. After the meeting the Jordanian envoy stated that they discussed ways of boosting bilateral ties and issues pertaining to the upcoming meeting of the two countries' joint committee.

Asked to comment on reports that the Palestinians have proposed to set up a Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli confederation, the Jordanian ambassador said that his country first wants the Palestinians to regain their legitimate rights and establish a state of their own. He noted that after this happens, Jordan will adopt a positive stance regarding any Palestinian proposal that guarantees the establishment of a Palestinian entity that can then set up a confederation with Jordan or any other country.

Concerning Jordan's position on Jerusalem, al-Qadi said that Jerusalem is a Palestinian and Arab city and that UN Security Council Resolution 242 considers it part of the occupied Arab territories.

He pointed out that there is a standing agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis to postpone a decision on Jerusalem until the permanent status negotiations begin. He stressed that Jordan will back the Palestinian position on this issue.

Commenting on the establishment of an Iranian law court on Jazirat Abu-Musa, the Jordanian ambassador announced that his country opposes any foreign occupation of any Arab territories, whether on the Emirian islands or anywhere else. He declared that Jordan backs Arab rights and supports the fraternal United Arab Emirates in its just demands to regain its three islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubra.

Regarding the chances of holding an Arab summit, Ambassador al- Qadi said that Jordan supports any call to hold an Arab conference because such a meeting will be beneficial to everyone. He said it is necessary to hold an Arab summit.

EU Official Arrives in Cairo for 2-Day Visit

NC0701071295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2304 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Manuel Marin, vice president of the Commission of the European Communities, arrived in Cairo tonight for a two-day official visit to Egypt.

During his stay, Marin will hold talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi on developments in the Middle East and the role the EU can play in advancing the peace process, in addition to discussing amendments to agreements signed between Egypt and the EU.

He will also meet Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at the Foreign Ministry on Saturday [7 January].

First Assistant Foreign Minister Ra'uf Ghunaym and the EU ambassador in Cairo received the European official.

Poll Taken on 'Terrorism,' Peace, Plurality

NC0701174995 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 29 Dec 94 p 1

[Review by Hani Shukrallah of results of a "First-of-its-kind" opinion poll conducted by AL-AHRAM WEEKLY]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamist violence was condemned by an overwhelming majority of Egyptians polled by Al-Ahram Weekly earlier this month in a first-of-its-kind quick opinion poll, which sampled the views of 1,505 men and women of different ages and educational backgrounds on a range of foreign and domestic issues. The respondents, who were randomly chosen, were interviewed in Greater Cairo's two main railway stations in Ramses Square and al-Jizah. The interviewers were strictly prohibited from asking questions that could reveal a respondent's identity.

The poll was co-supervised by prominent statistician and social scientist Nidir Firghani, who acted as consultant to the Weekly on all aspects of the poll. The Al-Mishkat Centre for Research and Training, headed by Firghani, provided technical backup. The poll was conducted by a group of 20 Weekly reporters over a three-day period.

Asked whether Islamist groups that resort to violence work for the good of the people, 93 per cent of those polled said no, 3 per cent said yes, and 4 per cent felt that they had no opinion on the subject.

This, however, was the only issue on which such an overwhelming agreement in public opinion was found. Questions relating to the currently burning issue of the normalisation of relations with Israel brought forth a more varied response, though they revealed that, for the majority of citizens, the so-called "psychological barrier" is still very much in place 15 years after the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Asked whether they would buy Israeli goods, 71 per cent of the respondents said no, 26 per cent said yes, and only 3 per cent had no opinion. Such sentiments were expressed even more strongly on the question of possible Israeli factories in Egypt. Though the question deliberately emphasised a hypothetical form of economic interaction that is generally felt to be positive—industry—the great majority of the respondents (75 per cent) said no to such an eventuality, compared to only 20 per cent who approved, while 5 per cent had no views on the matter.

Interestingly, there was more variation in views on the exchange of visits between Egyptians and Israelis—which seemed to indicate that the public was more opposed to formal, organised ties with the state of Israel than to interaction with individual Israelis. Asked whether they would be in favour of Israeli citizens visiting Egypt, 53 per cent of respondents said no, 43 per cent said yes, and 4 per cent had no opinion. As to whether they themselves would like to visit Israel, a greater majority of 63 per cent said no, compared to 36 per cent who said yes, and 2 per cent who did not express a view.

Neither did the majority of those polled express much faith in the current peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians restoring Palestinian rights. There was no exact correspondence, however, between the respondents' views on normalisation with Israel and those on whether a solution of the Palestinian question was being achieved through the current peace process. Asked whether they felt the peace process had given the Palestinians their rights, 58 per cent said no, 36 per cent said yes, and a substantial 16 per cent said they had no opinion. The latter figure in particular contrasted sharply with the much greater degree of certainty revealed in response to the other four questions on Arab-Israeli related issues, to which the rate of non-response, or of no opinion, averaged a mere 3.5 per cent. This seemed to indicate that the Egyptian public felt it had its own axe to grind with Israel, over and above whether Israel restored to the Palestinians their rights or not.

On domestic policy issues, Al-Ahram Weekly tried to assess the level of political participation and confidence in the multi-party system some 18 years after it was launched by President Anwar al- Sadat in 1976. The response should give political party leaders and social scientists a lot to think about in the coming period. One positive indication, however, lay in the fact that a substantial majority of the those polled came out in support of democratic pluralism. Asked whether the principle of a multi-party system was beneficial, 73 per cent said yes, 14 per cent said no, and 13 per cent had no opinion. These results contrasted extraordinarily to the response to the question of whether the current multi-party system in Egypt was deemed beneficial. A majority of 48 per cent said no, only 36 per cent said yes, and 16 per cent had no opinion on this.

The sense of political alienation was further confirmed by a question asking people whether any of the political parties or tendencies currently working in the country represented them. Respondents were asked to choose a particular political party or an overall political tendency irrespective of its legal status. Only 36 per cent could identify a political party or tendency as representing them, while a 40-per-cent majority felt that none of the political parties or tendencies in the country represented them, and—a response that registers the highest rate of non-opinion to any question in the poll—22 per cent said they had no opinion.

The answers to this question seemed to confirm in a dramatic way what many political analysts have been suggesting for some time, namely the existence of a large "silent majority" standing largely outside the arena of struggle between political parties and tendencies, and viewing it with a high degree of indifference or cynicism.

Among the 36 per cent who did feel that a political party or tendency represented them, a majority placed their confidence in the ruling national Democratic Party, with 21.3 of the total number of respondents saying that the NDP represented them. What many will find astonishing, however, is the relatively low showing for the Islamist tendency, which observers and analysts, while disagreeing on its relative political weight vis-a-vis the ruling party, have been virtually unanimous in ascribing the status of the strongest opposition force in the country.

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In fact, it was the liberal Wafd Party that received this distinction in the Weekly's poll, with 7.7 per cent of the respondents saying it represented them. The combined showing of all Islamist groups came to 5.9 per cent, with 3.1 per cent of respondents saying that the Islamist tendency as a whole represented them, without specifying a particular group or party. 2.3 per cent chose the Islamist-oriented Labour Party, a mere 0.4 per cent specified the Muslim Brotherhood, and an even smaller group, 0.1 per cent, chose the militant tendency represented by Al-Jama'ah Al-Islamiyah. The left of the political spectrum, represented by the Nasirite and Tagammu National progressive Unionist Party [NPUG] parties had the confidence of only 2.5 per cent of the respondents, with 1.3 per cent going to the Nasirite and 1.2 per cent to NPUG.

It should be noted here however, as Firghani does in detail below, that this, as well as all the other results, should be viewed in the context of the random sample's social and regional bias, leaning as it did towards urban, Lower Egypt and towards the more educated strata of society. Residents of Upper Egypt, for instance, where Islamism has its greatest political influence, accounted for 18 per cent of the sample.

The results of the poll were, nevertheless, highly significant in the way the low level of support for the Islamists as a political tendency contrasted with the high degree of sympathy expressed for the non-violent Islamist groups in general. Asked whether non- violent Islamist groups worked for the good of the people, 67 per cent of the respondents said yes, compared to 19 per cent who answered no, and 14 per cent who felt they could express no opinion on the matter. This seemed to confirm the observation made by some analysts that, in spite of the rise of political Islam, the influence of Islamism is still felt much more in the cultural and social spheres than in the political.

People's relative apathy towards the competing political parties and trends was naturally reflected in the interest taken in the parliamentary process, though to a lesser degree. Respondents were almost evenly split with regards to their voting intentions in the next elections for People's Assembly, which are due to take place in 1995. 50 per cent said that they intended to vote in the coming elections, 48 per cent said they would not, and 2 per cent were undecided.

Human Rights Group Alleges Torture of Prisoners

NC0701113695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic in its 30 December 94 issue runs on page 3 an approximately 2,000-word report on violations of detention procedures and "torture" in Egyptian prisons.

The report includes statements by 'Abdallah Khalil, head of the Legal Committee of the Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] criticizing detention procedures. He said: "We have repeatedly requested that the Public Prosecution have a record of all arrest warrants issued by the Interior Ministry and that copies of these warrants must be kept at the Public Prosecution Office."

Khalil disclosed that, according to EHRO reports, there are about 20,000 prisoners in Egyptian jails. He added that the number of cases in which police tortured citizens in police stations and illegally arrested ordinary citizens not charged with political cases in 1992-94 totaled about 48. He noted that cases of torture in prisons observed by the EHRO since Egypt signed the accord banning torture in July 1986 until December 1993 totalled 221. In 1993, he said, the organization received information of 14 people who died of torture in prisons and police stations. He added that after the organization reported this to the attorney general, there was an investigation of the compliant which revealed firm suspicions that 12 out 14 had died because of torture. The other two were put on the "forcible disappearance" list, the EHRO official said.

AFP Reports al-Minya Security Chief Fired

NC0801122095 Paris AFP in English 1117 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 8 (AFP)—The head of security in the troubled southern region of al-Minya has been sacked and replaced by a senior interior ministry official known for his tough stand on Muslim militants, police said.

General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Umar will take over from General Yusri Shakir on the orders of Interior Minister Hassan al-Alfi, they said late Saturday.

Shaker was only appointed to head security forces in al-Minya in November and police said his dismissal was due to his failure to end fundamentalist unrest in the region.

His dismissal came after eight policemen and three civilians were killed Monday in four attacks carried out almost simultaneously by the banned al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group in al-Minya province, 300 kilometres (180 miles) south of Cairo.

'Umar has led campaigns to crack down on fundamentalists in several regions, notably al-Qalyubiyah, just north of Cairo, they added.

Al-Alfi blamed Shakir for failing to capture the assailants despite large-scale manhunts and not having launched a counter- attack.

It is the third reshuffle in al-Minya's police commanders in three months.

Al-Minya has become the al-Jama'ah militants' main battleground after they were ousted from the neighboring Asyut region last September following a series of police operations.

More than 560 people have been killed in nearly three years of anti-government militant unrest.

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Brotherhood Leader Denies Support for Violence

NC0801185795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Jan 95

[Telephone interview with Muslim Brotherhood official spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, in Cairo, by Jihad al-'Idani, in Tehran; on 8 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idani] Reports say that Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's trial will begin in New York tomorrow, Monday. What do you say about these reports? What is your view of the trial?

[Al-Hudaybi] All we want is that the trial be fair and legally sound. I do not know what he is accused of but I wish him, like any other defendant, a fair trial before a properly impartial court. He must have the right to defend himself through legally sound measures.

[Al-'Idani] Mr. al-Hudaybi, Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has accused the Muslim Brotherhood of supplying weapons and other forms of assistance to Egyptian and other armed groups. What is your comment on these accusations? Are they true, or mere accusations?

[Al-Hudaybi] We categorically reject these accusations. Al-Alfi made a formal announcement before a news conference that the Muslim Brotherhood has no connection with acts of violence but is a group with an ideological message. When he changes his position and says things like this, you know they are untrue. We are clear in our position. The government possesses total powers of investigation. Over the past few decades, it has investigated all cases involving violence and terrorism. Some people were put on trial, some were killed, and some were imprisoned. Yet in spite of all this, not one Muslim Brother was involved in these cases.

[Al-'Idani] Why then do they make these accusations?

[Al-Hudaybi] These are political matters. The aim is to put pressure on other governments or to serve domestic objectives involving the general elections which are drawing near. We are astounded that a government official can make such statements. He is also claiming that the international Muslim Brotherhood organizations have influence everywhere. All right, the Muslim Brothers in Jordan are represented in parliament. They operate openly and are part of the cabinet. In Yemen, the Islamists are part of the cabinet and have the largest political party after the president's party. They are represented in many spheres, thank God. Even here in Egypt, although the government does not recognize us, we operate openly. How can it be said after all this that we advocate and back terrorism or anything like this? We work in the open daylight. All our affairs are open. We have no clandestine operations. None at all.

[Al-'Idani] Thank you, Mr. al-Hudaybi.

[al-Hudaybi] Don't mention it.

Security Operations, 'Terrorist' Activity Reported

5 'Terrorists' Reportedly 'Eliminated'

NC0801150595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—The state security investigations' department today dealt a new successful blow to the fugitive terrorists abroad who are trying to infiltrate their terrorist elements into the country in a desperate attempt to re-form some of the terrorist factions in an effort to shatter security and stability in the country.

Early this morning, the state security investigations department succeeded in eliminating five dangerous terrorists in Madinat Sittah Uktubar on the Cairo-al-Fayyum road.

This statement was made by a security official at the Interior Ministry today.

The security source said that the international antiterrorism squad, which belongs to the state security investigations, took simultaneous action this morning in the Governorates of Cairo and al-Jizah to capture the elements of this terrorist organization in their hideouts.

The source added that while the squad units were storming one of the hideouts at number 36, district 6, in Madinat Sittah Uktubar, they were surprised by bullets fired at them from inside the hideout. They reacted immediately.

He added that the exchange of fire left five terrorists dead. Among them was Ahmad Khalil Ahmad Khalil, whose nom-de-guerre is 'Ali, born in Asyut and residing in Markaz Abu-Tij. He has a diploma in industrial studies. He is one of the active terrorist elements and is wanted regarding a number of cases, including case No. 1646/93 of the criminal department in Abu-Tij and state security dossier No. 235.

The security source at the Interior Ministry mentioned in his statement that the exchange of fire also left Mahmud Muhammadi al-Fararji, whose nom-de-guerre is Ahmad, dead. He comes from the Governorate of al-Gharbiyah and has a diploma in industrial studies. He is also an active terrorist who was sent into the country recently after receiving various advanced training courses in gang warfare and in the preparation and set-up of explosives and decoys. After returning to the country, he also trained some members of the organization in these operations.

Terrorist Muhammad 'Uthman, whose nom-de-guerre is Ayman, was also killed. He hails from al-Minya and resides there. He is a student at the al-Azhar secondary school and is considered one of the active and mobile elements in al-Minya Governorate. His duties consisted of contacting other elements, conveying instructions, and sheltering and housing fugitive terrorists. He is wanted in a number of cases.

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The shoot-out also led to the death of Ahmad 'Abd-al-Fattah Saqr, whose nom-de-guerre is Husayn. He was born and resided in al-Jizah. He is a student at the School of Engineering and is one of the active elements of this organization. His duties consisted of contacting and conveying instructions among the leaderships of this organization.

Terrorist Samir Ahmad Jum'ah Ahmad—nom-de-guerre Isma'il—was also killed in the exchange of fire. He was born in Asyut and lived in Manfalut. He participated in many terrorist operations which were carried out recently.

The security source added that a search of the five slain terrorists' hideouts produced a 7.62-mm automatic rifle bearing the number 1067, a long-barreled 9-mm Hulwan-style pistol, two locally manufactured pistols, one a 7.62-mm and the other a 35-mm [as received] pistol.

The search also produced a primed booby-trapped Samsonite briefcase rigged with 5 kg of highly explosive TNT, a quantity of iron nails and other metal objects. It was equipped with a power source and an electronic detonator.

According to the security source, the search also yielded the followings: electrical and transistor circuits, connectors, condensers, a blueprint of how to manufacture and use explosives, sums of money in various currencies, forged documents belonging to the organization, tools used in forging documents, and a large quantity of documents and printed material belonging to the organization.

The source explained that State Security detectives had placed several individuals, who had recently been sent to Egypt from abroad, under surveillance. The aim was to monitor their communications with each other, locate their hideouts, the places where they made contact, and their weapons. The source said that the information thus gathered proved that these terrorist elements planned to carry out several terrorist operations to demonstrate their prowess and presence on the scene. The operations were to be carried out by members who had been trained abroad. The surveillance, the source stated, had been carried out in a fully legal manner and with the authorization of the Higher State Security Prosecution Office.

The surveillance of the five terrorists showed that they had been trying to contact some related groups in al-Minya Governorate to urge them to carry out operations there as a decoy for the five terrorists' actions in the Greater Cairo area. The five terrorists were consequently pursued and eliminated.

Public Prosecutor Office personnel left for the hideouts that had been stormed to begin an investigation.

The security source affirmed that the State Security Detectives Department, in concert with other police departments, are continuing their surveillance of such individuals and any communications they carry out. The aim, he said, is to arrest all the persons who were recently sent to Egypt from abroad and the individuals inside the country with whom they are maintaining contact.

Policeman Wounded; Militant Arrested in Raid

NC0701213095 Paris AFP in English 1751 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] al-Minya, Egypt, Jan 7 (AFP)—A policeman was wounded Saturday [7 January] when his unit stormed a Moslem militant hideout in southern Egypt, arrested one suspect and seized a large quantity of explosives, an official said.

Another Moslem militant was wounded in the leg but managed to flee the apartment in Samalut, a village in al-Minya province, 200 kilometres (120 miles) south of Cairo, the police official added.

The hideout was used by the banned fundamentalist group al- Jama'ah al-Islamiyah as a meeting place and for storing weapons.

The police seized 15 kilograms (33 pounds) of TNT (trinitrotoluene), 20 explosive devices, three guns, six walkie- talkies and documents detailing assassination plans to be carried out shortly, the officials added.

The militants had booby trapped access to the building with a timing device but did not have time to set off the bomb.

The police have stepped up operations in al-Minya and brought in reinforcements after the killing of eight policemen and three civilians in four attacks launched almost simultaneously Monday by Moslem militants around the town of Mallawi, some 300 kilometres (180 miles) south of Cairo.

Police Arrest 18 Suspected Militants

NC0801222395 Paris AFP in English 2027 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 8 (AFP)—Egyptian police arrested 18 suspected Islamic militants in Cairo Sunday [8 January], acting on information from militants on trial for the attempted murder of the celebrated author Najib Mahfuz.

Police officials said 17 of the suspects were arrested in raids in the Madinat al-Nasr, 'Ayn Shams and al-Matariyah districts of northeastern Cairo.

Another suspect, Muhammad Rifa'i, was arrested in the south of the city as he distributed leaflets denouncing the detention of an Islamic fundamentalist journalist, 'Adil Husayn.

Police shot dead five militants from the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] in a gunbattle on the outskirts of Cairo earlier Sunday.

The militants were plotting to "widen the circle" of the Islamist campaign against the authorities that has been focused in southern Egypt, police said.

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The five militants had sought refuge in an apartment in the new town of Sixth October, 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of the capital.

The Cairo military high court is due to give its verdict Tuesday in the trial of 16 Islamic militants accused of trying to kill Nobel laureate Mahfuz on October 14.

The 83-year-old writer was stabbed outside his home in Cairo and spent 50 days in hospital recovering.

Police said the defendants had confessed to plotting attacks in Cairo to coincide with the international book fair on January 11 to 26. Security was stepped up for the occasion following the statements.

Meanwhile the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) called for an international campaign Sunday to get 'Adil Husayn admitted to hospital, saying the journalist had been the victim of "ill-treatment" in prison.

The EOHR said Husayn, arrested on December 24, was deprived of medicines, clothes and blankets in prison, according to certain reports, and was suffering from earlier angina and a stroke.

It called on Arab and international organisations to put pressure on the authorities to move him to hospital.

Husayn, whose period of detention was extended by another 15 days Thursday, is secretary general of the Labour Party, allied to the fundamentalist Moslem Brotherhood.

He is accused of spreading fundamentalist ideas and publishing false information.

Police Kill 3 al-Jama'ah Members in Asyut

NC0901122795 Paris AFP in English 1147 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Jan 9 (AFP)—Police on Monday killed three Moslem militants in a dawn raid on their hideout in southern Egypt, police said.

The three, all members of the banned armed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group, were killed in a police operation in the north of the Asyut province in Upper Egypt, about 300 kilometres (180 miles) south of Cairo.

All three had been "wanted for recent militant attacks in the al-Minya region" and had lined up "other targets" for new attacks, police said.

The men had been hiding in fields from where they had planned attacks and a clash broke out when police tried to arrest, they added.

Two assault rifles, a pistol and ammunition as well as documents and false identity papers were found in hideout.

The latest killings brought the number of deaths to 576 since militants launched a violent anti-government campaign in Match 1992, including 21 since the beginning of the year.

They came the day after Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi appointed a new head of security in al-Minya, sacking the former chief for failing to quell unrest in the region.

On Sunday security forces shot dead five al-Jama'ah members in a gun-battle on the outskirts of Cairo, and eight policemen and three civilians were killed in a series of militant attacks in al-Minya on January 2.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Local Activists

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic at 1932 GMT on 6 January broadcasts a 92-minute recording of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's meeting with popular activists of the region of Surman and Abu 'Isa on an unspecified date.

The video report first shows al-Qadhdhafi in a large room where he is seen sitting at a desk in front of a large audience which chants revolutionary slogans. A man is seen reading a statement of welcome to al-Qadhdhafi expressing loyalty to the revolution and the leader. Al-Qadhdhafi is then offered flowers and a copy of the Koran. A man reads out a statement on behalf of the popular activists of Surman welcoming the leader and his ideas, and condemning the surrendering shameful Arab leaders. This is followed by a man who reads out to a program for the development of the region laid down by local experts.

Al-Qadhdhafi then begins a 43-minute speech. He stresses the leadership of the local popular activists: they are called on to mobilize the masses when necessary and particularly to persuade the masses to carry out the decisions taken by the leadership. Al-Qadhdhafi says that the presence of the local popular activists is an obstacle to any adventurist and prevents dictatorships. Activists, he says, are respected and credible members of society, and the fact that they may belong to different tribes is not an impediment. Al-Qadhdhafi says that peoples in the world have lost faith in politicians and everyone in the world is moving toward people's power.

Al-Qadhdhafi further says that he is convinced that Libyans will overcome their difficulties and benefit from the latter thanks to the "splendid system" in the country. He stresses that anything that has no popular support is futile and a waste of time; all parties, armies, oppressive regimes are being trampled under foot. He says that goverments have no future; workers will continue strikes and sit-ins until the removal of capitalism. He says that British thinkers said that capitalism would come to an end step by step, without violence. He goes on to say that elections are a sham and all political systems in the world are now in their death throes. Libyans should stick to their system, he stresses.

Al-Qadhdhafi again underlines the importance of the local popular leadership and says he is happy to see this

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leadership of local activists accepted everywhere. Al-Qadhdhafi says that the new system is capable "of resolving all problems" with the help of God. Libyans, he says, can organize their affairs properly and they should always be united; elsewhere one can see a family ruling a people, but Libyans do not want a president or a ruler; they want to rule themselves, exploit their potentials and efforts, and this is good.

Al-Qadhdhafi adds that local leaderships should lay down development plans for their respective regions. Libyans, he stresses, should seek to prevent the return of colonialism which plunders the riches of other countries. Revolutions, he says, come about when there is backwardness, as happened in Libya. Backwardness is linked with western colonialism. Local youths, he says, should work and develop their native regions, and local experts should lay down local development plans. The local leadership should extend help to these experts and facilitate their tasks. Al-Qadhdhafi goes on to say that it is not shameful to have problems, but it is shameful not to face up to problems and try to solve them. "We are now acting correctly," he says, and he again stresses the mobilizing and instigating role of the local leadership which consists of blameless and respected and credible people. He adds that he is satisfied with the local popular activists' work in Surman and Abu 'Isa. Libyans, he says, should use their potentials and benefit from them.

Al-Qadhdhafi concludes by expressing his trust in the men of the region and their good work, and he says that "all difficulties will be overcome, God willing, and all problems will be resolved, and all the enemies will be defeated with the will of God." The crowd chants revolutionary slogans and the meeting is concluded.

Al-Qadhdhafi is then shown under a large tent as a guest to a named family of the region. A man reads out a statement of praise for al-Qadhdhafi interspersed with colloquial poetry. The Libyan leader then leaves his hosts and is seen outside the tent shaking hands with ululating women and children warmly welcoming the leader. They chant slogans: "More defiance, O unique eagle." Al-Qadhdhafi is again seen standing with his guests for a picture and then shakes more hands and cuddles babies. More slogans are chanted: "To hell with the blockade."

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed by Turkish Television

LD0701180995 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 7 Jan—The Turkish Television station, HBB, has carried an interview with the brother leader of the revolution. It was broadcast two days ago. However, the station dropped two passages from the interview. Here is the first paragraph as it was given in the original text:

[Question] Economic relations with Turkey were good, before and after the sanctions. There were some problems. What in your opinion can be done to solve these problems?

[Al-Qadhdhafi]: This problem is not with Turkey alone but it is with a large number of states. Hence, the sanctions have not just been against Libya, but many countries have suffered from them including UN Security Council member states. All the states whose companies claim money from Libya and were unable to recover these debts, the states which had companies [in Libya], and their contracts with Libya were suspended, the states which had Libyan balances in their banks, all these states cannot recover any of these things until the sanctions on Libya are lifted. They will have to lift the sanctions on Libya so that these states can benefit.

The station was also liberal in its quotation of the following paragraph:

[Al-Qadhdhafi]: One must get ready for this confrontation because the confrontation is inevitable. Some basic change in the alliances must take place. The Israelis will be the spearhead against Turkey and against the Arabs and against Islam. This confrontation is inevitable. They are marching on the Islamic east without fail. New crusaders expeditions are expected 100 percent. They have begun now. Now they are liquidating the Islamic pockets in Europe and Russia and afterward, Islam itself. The clash will begin from Turkey to Marrakech, and from Ceuta and Melilla to Istanbul. I mean, whether we get ready or do not get ready this will definitely come, and whether we believe it or not, it is coming.

Morocco

Director Views Seizure of Newspaper Edition

LD0601151695 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Morocco, the newspaper MAROC HEBDO was seized this morning when copies were about to leave the printing works. Mohammed Salami, director of the newspaper, whose independent newspaper has been around for the last three years, expressed his amazement when interviewed by Muriel Pomponne:

[Begin recording] [Salami] Early this morning at about 0500, when we were about to print the newspaper, we were surprised to see a group of government officials who came to take the copies and told us that today's issue was seized. I have still not been given any official reason explaining this measure to me.

[Pomponne] What was printed in this paper?

[Salami] As you know, we are going through an exciting political phase that signals change. We obtained information yesterday on the basis of a thorough investigation that [opposition leader] Mr. Boucetta will be appointed prime minister. This is official. On the basis of our analysis, we said that this could certainly lead to the departure of Mr. Driss Basri from the Interior Ministry. [end recording]

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Bahrain

Police Use Tear-Gas, Rubber Bullets on Demonstrators

NC0601165995 Paris AFP in English 1610 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Jan 6 (AFP)—Riot police fired tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse a protest in Bahrain on Friday [6 January] against the wave of arrests which followed last month's unrest in the Gulf state, witnesses and diplomats said.

The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain (IFLB), meanwhile, said several Shiite Muslim clerics were arrested at the airport on their return from Iran and have gone on hunger strikes against their detention.

Witnesses and diplomats, contacted on the telephone by AFP, said several hundred demonstrators set out on a protest march from the western village of al-Diraz on Friday after the Muslim weekly prayers.

Riot police intercepted the march in al-Qadam region, firing tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowd, they said. Helicopters were used in the police operation.

The demonstrators called for the release of those arrested during last month's unrest and for a return to parliamentary democracy in Bahrain.

Bahraini authorities are holding 2,370 people arrested in December, the London-based Committee for the Defence of Political Prisoners in Bahrain said on Wednesday.

They were to face trial for damaging public property.

The December 5 arrest of Shiite cleric Shaykh 'Ali Salman sparked rioting that the opposition said killed 15 people, including members of the security forces. The authorities said only one policeman was killed.

Diplomats said more people have been arrested since the start of the year, including Shiite clerics Sayyid Muhammad Sa'id Majid and Shaykh Hamzah al-Hawwaj.

According to the IFLB, shaykhs Munir Ma'tuq, Hani al-Jadahfasi, Hamid al-Madih and others have also been arrested after a visit to the Shiite holy city of Qom in central Iran.

The bodies of two prisoners, including 19-year-old Husayn Gambar, were returned to their families for burial, the opposition group said. Gambar had allegedly been tortured to death.

Apart from economic demands on behalf of Shiites in the Sunni Muslim-led state, both the Islamic and liberal opposition have called for parliament to be restored after being suspended in Bahrain in 1975.

After thousands of Shiite protesters took to the streets in December, clashing with police, Emir 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah agreed only to reinforce the consultative council whose members he appoints himself.

IRNA Reports on Clashes

LD0901084095 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, 9 Jan (IRNA)—In a statement released here Sunday [8 January] night the Bahraini Freedom Front reported that during clashes in Manama on Saturday between the Muslim reformists and the emir's guard, tens of people from either side were severely injured.

The clashes took place in al-Diraz a northwestern district of Manama at a time when a large group of people cried "Allah-o akbar" (God is great) and chanted slogans against the government, said the statement.

Security forces, it said, fired on the demonstrators from helicopters injuring several people.

The nember of casualties were not given, but the spokesman of the Bahraini Freedom Front noted the clashes continued until midnight.

According to the statement the demonstrators were calling for freedom of all the Bahraini political prisoners.

Kuwait

Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Visits

LD0901114795 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohammad Hashemi, the undersecretary at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, stressed today that Iran was still maintaining its stance which supports the obligation for the Iraqi regime to complete abiding to all the paragraphs of the UN resolutions concerning its aggression against the State of Kuwait.

In a statement today to KUNA on his arrival to the country, while accompanied by a high-ranking delegation on a three-day official visit, he said that Iran still supported the UN Security Council's resolutions. He also said that the Iraqi regime must complete its step of recognition of the sovereignty and borders of the State of Kuwait by implementing the remaining UN resolutions.

The Iranian undersecretary stressed that the Baghdad regime must stop interfering in the internal affairs of the states of the region. He pointed out that the practices of that regime created some perturbation in the region.

Mohammad Hashemi said that he would hold talks with officials in the country on regional, Arab, Islamic, and international issues of common interest. He described the relations between the two countries as strategic.

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U.S. Criticism of French Interests Decision Reported

JN0701112795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 7 Jan (INA)—The U.S. Department of State yesterday vehemently criticized a French decision to open an interests section in Baghdad. It considered this decision as not useful, inappropriate, and nonconstructive.

Christine Shelley, spokesman for the U.S. Department of State, said the time is inappropriate for taking initiatives toward Iraq at a time when this country still refuses to comply with the UN resolutions, including a resolution on eliminating the weapons of mass destruction, as is claimed by the U.S. Department of State.

Shelley added that the French decision was made a few days before the Security Council's review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq. The Security Council makes such reviews every other month.

Official Hails French Move

NC0701133595 Paris AFP in English 1202 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Jan 7 (AFP)—Iraq on Saturday [7 January] hailed France's decision to open an interests section in Baghdad and condemned what it called the "arrogant" U.S. and British criticism of the move.

A senior official of the ruling Ba'th party, Saad Kassem Hammudi, told AFP that their reaction was "devoid of any legal basis and morally unjustified and shows the arrogance of the two countries."

France decided Friday during a visit by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz to open "very soon" an interests section at the Romanian Embassy in Baghdad.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the opening of an interests section was "a technical measure which allows us to settle practical questions linked to the break in diplomatic relations with Iraq," since early 1991.

But Iraq had to comply with all UN resolutions imposed on Baghdad since the end of the January-February 1991 Gulf War, he warned.

The decision was hailed by the Iraqi media on Saturday which splashed it across front pages, while the television broadcast pictures and commentary on 'Aziz's visit to Paris.

The UN Security Council is due next week to hold its regular two-month review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

France, China and Russia have led calls for an easing of the sanctions which have crippled the Iraqi economy, saying Baghdad has made progress in complying with UN resolutions notably on disarmament.

But the United States and Britain have strongly opposed any lifting of the sanctions until all UN demands are met.

Hammudi called on other European countries to follow France's example and recognise Baghdad's progress.

But France's decision was dismissed in Washington by State Department spokeswoman Christine Shelly who said, "Now is not the time to make gestures towards Iraq."

Baghdad had failed to comply with UN resolutions on eliminating its arms and "such behaviour should not be rewarded," she said.

In London, the Foreign Office said it remained suspicious of Iraq's intentions. "This is not the moment to relax the pressure on Iraq to comply fully with UN requirements," said a spokesman.

BABIL Sees 'Hole' in 'Alliance'

JN0901101495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Jan (INA)—BABIL has described the French announcement on opening a French interests section in Baghdad soon as an important step forward and a big hole in the anti-Iraq alliance.

In an article entitled "Hole in the Wall" published today, the newspaper said: This announcement represents a return to the constants in the French policy called for and followed by former French President de Gaulle.

The newspaper expected the French position to lead—if it is added to the Russian, Chinese, and Spanish positions—to a situation in which the full or partial lifting of the siege will only be a matter of time, especially concerning oil exports.

The paper emphasized that this French announcement was all that was possible at this time, and no one expected France to announce more than this, such as resuming diplomatic relations with Iraq. This is for known reasons, such as the complicated interlacement between the United States, France, and Britain, as well as the military and trade agreements between France and both the Gulf states and Riyadh.

Concluding, the newspaper said that the normalization of French- Iraqi relations has begun, and France has attended to issues beyond its interests with Iraq, such as independent decisionmaking away from the U.S. policy in the interest of both France and Europe.

Reaction to French Move Viewed

JN0801114395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 8 Jan 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 8 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has said the positive French step of opening an interests section in Baghdad is a natural and

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expected step in light of the positive regional and international developments regarding Iraq and the blockade imposed on its people.

In an article by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar, the paper says that what is exciting and unexpected is the U.S. reaction. Apparently dissatisfied with the French move, the United States described it as a premature step. The same can be said of the British stand, which deemed it an untimely decision to ease the pressure against Iraq. Both parties have chosen to ignore the fact that France is a big power and has the right to act as it deems appropriate for its interests and international vision.

The writer adds that for the past four years, France has been coordinating its stands on Iraq with the U.S. Administration on a basis, and that what has happened is not outside this coordination, although it indicates a lack of agreement due to the French conviction that Iraq's compliance with the UN resolutions requires a reconsideration of the policy of the "Western coalition" and the UN Security Council on Iraq, in accordance with the stipulations of those resolutions.

The writer indicates that the French stand is based on two basic pillars. Those are law and interests. First, the rational French policy has finally come to realize the extent of the importance that should be given to Iraq's compliance with the resolutions imposed on it and what must be done in reciprocation. Second, France has legal interests in the region. Those interests require that its relations with Iraq, which have been harmed by its support for the Western stand, are rejuvenated.

The writer says that prompted by its barbarism and excessive hatred, the U.S. policy, despite its awareness of the importance of those two pillars, is trying to press the parties to the anti-Iraq coalition into ignoring the question of sound legal commitment. Meanwhile, it is trying to ignore the fact that it has an interests section in Iraq, thus raising doubts about its criticism of the French decision.

The writer explains that the U.S. Administration, which waged war against Iraq because of its greed for the region's resources, especially oil, has begun to lose its ability to influence the allies of the past and within the UN Security Council. He indicated that if it persists in its exposed aggressiveness toward Iraq, the U.S. Administration will eventually come into collusion with international law, in accordance with which it mobilized armies against Iraq.

The writer says that by complying with all the resolutions issued against it, Iraq has pulled the carpet out from under the United States, exposing the U.S. position on the international level and within the UN Security Council. Hence, the new Russian and French stands on Iraq's fair demands.

Magazine Says Special Commission U.S. 'Tool'

JN0701124295 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 22 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Dec—An Iraqi magazine Wednesday accused the UN Special Commission [UNSCOM] of being a tool in the hands of the United States and Britain to maintain the UN embargo.

The magazine, ALIF BA', which was published before the UN debate on the commission's report last Tuesday, says UNSCOM has for a long time been a tool that is always ready to turn any U.S. and British political decision to maintain the embargo, which has been imposed on Iraq since August 1990, into a technical decision.

The magazine adds: UNSCOM has become a direct pressure card in the Security Council to block the alleviation of the embargo, which permanent member states Russia, France, and China are demanding, especially following Iraq's recognition of Kuwait in November.

In his report to the Security Council Tuesday, accursed UNSCOM Chairman Ralph Ekeus said Iraq had made mucuh progress, but he also referred to some loopholes in the programs that Baghdad submitted, saying they concealed certain data related to biological and chemical weapons.

The magazine says: The insistence on the existence of loopholes in Iraqi military programs is proof of a deliberate ill intention against Iraq which renews every two months with the approach of the periodic Security Council meetings on Iraq.

The next Security Council meeting to review the UN embargo on Iraq is scheduled to take place in January 1995.

Saddam's Son Linked to Iranian Smuggling

JN0701115895 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Jan 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite Iran's denial of smuggling Iraqi oil and violating the international embargo, Washington has informed the Security Council's permanent member states that these violations are real. It has submitted documents proving Tehran organized smuggling operations in cooperation with Saddam's son, 'Udayy, two years ago. The latter has important trade relationships with some important Iranian personages, particularly in the Revolutionary Guard.

Western sources say Tehran's talk about blocking ships that were en route to Iraq's al-Basarah Port to carry commodities falls within the framework of conflicts inside Iran among influential groups that try to benefit from the smuggling operations. Most probably, these ships were held to discuss a bigger share of the smuggled commodities with the son of the Iraqi president.

Western sources confirm that there are groups within the authority in Baghdad that are in conflict over the gains of

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smuggling, that conflicts among the al-Takriti family are closely attached to this issue, and that some resignations and executions in the army's command were carried out against this background.

Ex-Intelligence Chief on Saddam's Missile, Germ Bomb Stocks

MM0601164995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jan 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Staff Major General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former director of Iraqi intelligence, who moved to North Iraq recently, has stressed that the Iraqi authorities are hiding more than 80 Scud and al-Husayn missiles and 200 germ bombs.

He vehemently criticized President Saddam Husayn, who "has squandered tens of billions of dollars on the nuclear, germ, and chemical industries." A statement issued by al-Samarra'i, a copy of which AL-HAYAH has received, said: "We will continue to fight Saddam and his family." This is in response to what Baghdad radio said about spilling al-Samarra'i's blood because of his joining the Iraqi opposition. He said that "the spilling of Saddam's blood is permissible legally and traditionally..., and our Armed Forces will implement the ruling soon."

Opposition Reportedly Learns Saddam Hiding Weapons

NC0501161695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi opposition in northern Iraq has received information revealing that Saddam Husayn's regime continues to conceal more than 80 scud missiles and 200 biological bombs from international inspectors.

Well-known leaders of the Iraqi opposition held Saddam Husayn responsible for squandering Iraq's massive resources on nuclear, biological, and chemical industries to fulfill the Baghdad ruler's desires to build a military arsenal that he could use to threaten the security and stability of the region.

The opposition leaders affirmed that the Iraqi people will continue to fight Saddam Husayn and his family until Iraq and its people are liberated from his terrorist regime. They pointed out that Saddam's regime has become a legal outcast, and that the Iraqi Army will soon carry out the people's verdict against Saddam.

Foreign Ministry Delegation Leaves for Syria

JN0601214295 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 7 Jan 95 p 4

[Report from the "Exclusive" column: "Secret Visit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed diplomatic sources have said that a ranking Iraqi diplomatic delegation, led by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, has passed via Jordan en route to Damascus.

Army Commanders Urged To End Country's Tragedy

NC0601202995 (Clandestine) Iraqi Army Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Glory to our pious martyrs. We pledge that we will restore the homeland's sovereignty, the people's liberty, and the Army's dignity.

O heroic Army commanders, your history, blood sacrifices, honor, homeland, and people call upon you to put an end to this tragedy and this black page in our proud nation's history.

Opposition Radio Says Army To Punish 'Tyrants'

NC0601200295 (Clandestine) Iraqi Army Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jan 95

[Unattributed talk]

[FBIS Translated Text] O sons of our valiant Armed Forces, you who have been tested in battles that are waged only by heroes believing in God-ordained fate and that death comes to everyone at the predestined time. You fought in great struggles, created immortal epics, brought glory to the nation, and were the homeland's shield, building it in time of peace and acting as its armor in war. Your heroism, chivalry, and succor are engraved on the hearts of the proud sons of our Iraq. Iraq consequently paid you back with respect and appreciation. Your khaki uniform came to denote the garb of glory and pride.

O sons of our Armed Forces, today is the day on which we remember our glory that has been usurped by the tyrants. Today is the day on which we remember our heroic feats that were misappropriated by the cowards who exploited these feats to portray themselves as strategic commanders.

Today we remember what we were like in the past and what we now have become.

Today is 6 January, the day that used to be a national day of a special flavor. On that day our people used to come eagerly forward to bless their Army, proud of its courage and holding it up as a paragon of chivalry.

Today is 6 January, the holiday that the criminal family has appropriated for itself, as it has done with all other holidays. It has smothered all smiles, cut off all the flowers, and cast them into the lake of blood in which it bathes, ever thirsty for more.

O sons of our Armed Forces. O zealous men. It disgraces us that a clique of murderers and criminals should share our national day. They have misappropriated our

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resources, sold off our homeland, humiliated our Army, and falsely accorded themselves the highest military ranks.

One criminal dispatches a cable of congratulations to another scoundrel. A thief presents what he has stolen to the chief thief as a gift. How can our dignified ears listen to Sergeant [Defense Minister Staff General] 'Ali al-Majid as he blesses his criminal master Saddam on Army Day and Husayn Kamil sends a reply cable of thanks to Qusayy? Thus the arena is left wide open to those criminals. Al-Majid's sons cavort in that space.

A cry rises from the depth of our hearts, we the sons of the Armed Forces and all honorable, zealous Iraqis: Enough, no more reckless behavior, O thieves. Soon we will celebrate our national day and real holiday. It will be a holiday day for our Army, people, and dear homeland.

The time to punish the criminal murderers draws near. Morning is their time appointed: Is not the morning nigh? [Koranic verse] Verily speaks the Almighty.

First 'Saddam Commando' Units Class Graduates

JN0501082395 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, a major military parade was held this morning to mark the graduation of the first class of the Saddam Commando Units—the Martyr 'Adnan Khayrallah class. Leader President Saddam Husayn deputized 'Udayy Saddam Husayn to represent his excellency in patronizing the event.

The parade was attended by a number of ministers, Qusayy Saddam Husayn [head of the Special Security Agency], a number of civil and military officials, comrade members of the Students and Youth Bureau, secretaries of the Ba'th Party branches, and members of the [words indistinct] of the National Union of Iraqi Students, the General Union of Iraqi Youth, the Olympic Committee, and the Cultural Forum. [passage omitted]

PRC Envoy on Embargo, GATT Membership Issue

JN0701115295 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 22 Dec 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] PRC Ambassador Bigan Sun has called on the international community to work to lift the unfair blockade on Iraq. In an exclusive statement to AL-QADISIYAH, the ambassador affirmed the Chinese people's solidarity with the Iraqi people and the desire of his government and people to strengthen relations of friendship and cooperation in the interest of both countries.

Regarding China's preparations for the upcoming UN Security Council session, the ambassador said: China has worked hard right from the start to alleviate the restrictions that the blockade imposes on Iraq. China was the first to adopt such a stand. We were joined by Russia and France recently, following Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and its fulfillment of all the UN Security Council resolutions. During the upcoming session, we will exert more efforts to lift the blockade, especially since the Iraqi position has become strong following its recognition of Kuwait. This position has foiled the plans of its enemies and confirmed its good will. The international community has praised Iraq's decision and expressed its satisfaction with it. Generally, matters are now proceeding in the direction of lifting the blockade on Iraq. I believe the upcoming session will see some progress that will be satisfactory to the Iraqis.

Ambassador Bigan Sun expressed his regret about the intransigent U.S. position and said: U.S. insistence on continuing with the blockade in order to weaken and impoverish the Iraqis, despite Iraq's cooperation with the Security Council, has not, regrettably, changed so far. We must seriously consider ways to lift the blockade on Iraq. Our hearts are with Iraq, the cradle of civilization. There is not a single person in China who does not know or love Iraq. Even children recall the country of one thousand and one nights whenever the name of Iraq is mentioned. Despite the long distance between Iraq and China, there are close ties and old relations between the two countries that cannot be severed or weakened. Lifting the blockade on Iraq is the wish of all the peoples of the world, especially the developing countries, because the blockade hampers the progress of cultural and economic development in the region.

Regarding U.S. opposition to China joining GATT, Ambassador Bigan Sun said: China's membership in the GATT is in the interest and for the benefit of not only China, but the whole world, because China is an industrial and commercial state with a big influence on world states. Its membership in the GATT will help regulate world trade. Unfortunately, there are those who place obstacles to prevent China's membership in this agreement, especially the United States. I cannot really understand what causes the U.S. and the British to fear and be concerned about our membership in the GATT. China has successful services and development projects and has nothing to harm the interests of other states. So, there is no justification for U.S. and British opposition. Still, we will not give up on the subject of sovereignty and the interests of our people. We hope that this problem is resolved before the end of this year.

Regarding future economic relations between Iraq and China, the ambassador said: Mutual cooperation already exists between our two countries. We are greatly interested in strengthening cooperation and friendship with Iraq. The representatives of Chinese companies have come to Iraq and concluded contracts with the Iraqi National Oil Company in the production of oil and gas.

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U.S. Defense Secretary Visits, Brings 'Full Agenda'

First Round of Talks

TA0801164295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has ended his first round of talks with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and is now meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The U.S. official who arrived in Israel earlier today on a 48-hour-visit has a full agenda of issues for discussion during his short stay. More on this from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin Ben-'Ami recording] Nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, Iran, Islamic fundamentalist terrorism, American troops for the Golan Heights, and bilateral issues including strategic cooperation and allegations that Israel has not honored agreements regarding U.S. technology it receives are all items that are expected to come up in one form or another during Secretary Perry's short stay in Israel. Some were already touched on at his first round of talks this afternoon with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin after an official welcoming ceremony with a military band and an honor guard at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv.

The meeting was mainly a briefing session for the American official with reviews of regional and bilateral issues, principally from Rabin and from the head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, Major General Uri Sagi and Major General 'Uzi Dayan, who heads the IDF Planning Branch. Also attending the meeting on the Israeli side were Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur, David 'Ivri, the director general of the Defense Ministry, and the newly appointed chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq.

According to one Israeli who attended the talks, Prime Minister Rabin focused especially on the issues of terrorism inside Israel and the territories, as well as from Lebanon, and the spread of nonconventional weapons in the region, pointing particularly to what he called the dual threat from Iran: that country's support for terrorism and its efforts to build up a conventional and nonconventional weapons capability.

The prime minister also reviewed developments in the peace process, and no doubt with one eye to a possible American role in any peace agreement with Syria on the Golan Heights, he praised the work of the multinational force of observers in the Sinai, including some 1,000 American soldiers, which monitors compliance with the military aspects of the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

Rabin also referred to ongoing strategic cooperation links between Israel and the U.S. and to the American contribution to Israel's Arrow antimissile defense project. Perry, incidentally, will be visiting the plant which is producing the experimental missile system during his stay.

Press reports and allegations that Israel is using some of the U.S. technology it receives to help China build a new jet fighter were referred to by the U.S. official during his meeting this afternoon and Rabin gave what was described as a firm rebuttal of the reports, saying Israel has not passed on any American technology to the Chinese and has no intention of doing so in the future. The prime minister said Israel honors its agreements with the U.S. and remains extremely sensitive to American concerns and American laws on the matter.

The two men are to meet again this evening at an official dinner and will hold further talks tomorrow afternoon, when Mr. Perry returns from his morning of visits which will take him to northern Israel for briefings on Israel's security concerns there, as well as visits to an Air Force Base and the missile defense plant. [end recording]

Nuclear Issues, Golan Discussed

TA0901060095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry will visit IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units today, fly over the Golan, and this evening will wind up his stay in Israel. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the U.S. defense secretary last night in Jerusalem that Israel will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East. But the foreign minister repeated Israel's position that it will not sign a nonproliferation treaty until full peace is achieved in the region. Secretary Perry said the U.S. is ready in principle to discuss American troops on the Golan Heights, but that it is premature to go into details at this point. David Ze'ev has more:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says he and the American defense secretary discussed promoting the peace process while ensuring security. Secretary Perry said the deployment of U.S. troops on the Golan Heights in an agreement with Syria did not come up specifically, though there is an American readiness to talk about it. [passage omitted]

In light of the strong campaign by the opposition aimed at American public opinion against U.S. troops on the Golan, Foreign Minister Peres felt compelled to add this message to the American mother:

[Peres] From our point of view, not to have a single American mother worry about the fate of her child in the Middle East is in our judgment a basic Israeli interest. We don't want to worry the American mother, and at most what we are talking is really a participation of a rather symbolic nature which doesn't carry risks and dangers, like in the Sinai. All our lives we are careful not to ask American boys to sacrifice their lives or to endanger their lives for the security of Israel. We were

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helped in many other ways for which we are thankful, and we hope to continue the same policy in the future.

[Ze'ev] Foreign Minister Peres said the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty did come up briefly in his conversation with Secretary Perry. Israel is unwilling to sign the treaty before there is peace in the region.

The American secretary spoke out against the possibility that Russia is helping Iran to complete construction of a nuclear power plant. Said Perry, we are very much concerned about the potential that Iran might become a nuclear power, and to the extent this might lead in that direction we would be very much opposed to it. [end recording]

U.S. Defense Secretary Perry was hosted at a dinner in Jerusalem last night. Prime Minister Rabin thanked Perry for U.S. support for a strong Israel:

[Begin Rabin recording] You have always supported the strength, the military strength of Israel, reasoning that Israel strong, the strength of Israel, will bring about peace. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rabin Addresses Missile Threat

TA0901092795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israel is preparing for the possibility of war in the not-too-distant or distant future. Rabin says that the Israeli Air Force cannot intercept every surface-to-surface missiles possessed by Arab countries. These remarks were made at a ceremony in memory of Shin Bet officer No'am Kohen last night. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Against the backdrop of his meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry—which focused on the Iranian threat and Tehran's attempts to acquire nuclear weapons—Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel still cannot rule out the possibility of war in the not-too-distant or distant future. Rabin was also referring to remote countries, perhaps mainly to countries such as Iran, which is arming itself with long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

[Rabin] Our working assumption is that we must prepare for the possibility of dealing with military dangers in the not-too-distant and distant future.

[Segal] The prime minister explained that this is why the defense budget has not been cut. He revealed, on the contrary, that it has even been slightly increased.

Rabin made these remarks at a memorial ceremony honoring Shin Bet officer No'am Kohen, which was held in Jerusalem. The prime minister reiterated that the greatest danger to Middle East stability is the wave of extremist Muslim terrorism emanating from Tehran. Rabin also referred to the arsenals of remote Arab countries.

[Rabin] Let me tell you that a future war might be waged both on the battlefield and the home front. Israel's Air Force cannot intercept with certainty every surface-to-surface missile held by the Arab countries today.

[Segal] Prime Minister Rabin assesses, however, that Israel can prevent a war. Rabin said Israel's military power is the main factor that brought our Arab partners to the negotiating table, and it—together with our political sagacity—will also help us prevent another war. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 9 January publishes on page 2 an ITIM report which adds: "Rabin emphasized that international terrorism is also based on fundamentalist terrorism. 'The present situation is "ideal" for terrorism. Tens of thousands of Israeli- and Palestinian-owned vehicles mix on a daily basis on roads in Judaea and Samaria. Some 50,000-70,000 Palestinians enter Israel daily. In light of this, it is irresponsible to claim that there is a clear-cut answer to terrorism,' Rabin said."]

Netanyahu Warns Perry on Golan Issue

TA0901104295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opposition leaders visited the Golan Heights yesterday on the eve of the scheduled visit to the North by US Defense Secretary William Perry.

"It's important that Perry should know that when he's talking to the present government, which wants to give the Golan Heights to the Syrians, he's talking to a minority government," said Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu.

He said it was equally important that Perry should be aware that the vast majority of the public is opposed to a withdrawal from the Golan.

Netanyahu, as well as leaders of Tzomet and the National Religious Party [NRP], met with representatives of the Golan Residents Committee in Qatzrin before holding a press conference.

Referring to Perry's visit, Netanyahu said he "strongly recommends" that he come to the region to see the situation on the ground for himself.

"The best way to clearly appreciate the reality of the security situation in the field—the necessity from the security aspect of the Golan Heights—is to visit the area," he said.

"Its not too late to change the program so that he can come here, as there were visits (to the Golan) by senators, congressmen, members of the US administration, and heads of other governments in the past, before the Rabin government changed the policies."

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Netanyahu charged that the government had imposed a ban on visits to the Golan by foreign diplomats and politicians, which he claimed is another sign it intends to give the region to the Syrians.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan underlined the strategic importance of the Golan, maintaining that the Arab world had not changed its attitude toward Israel.

MK [Knesset Member] Moshe Peled (Tzomet) said that if the opposition came to power it would not honor any agreement requiring a withdrawal.

MK Yig'al Bibi (NRP) stressed there is a national consensus against any pullout from the Golan. He called on all the parties and pro-Golan lobbyists to ensure the matter stays in the public eye, especially in the coming months, which he said would be a crucial period.

Perry Flies Over Golan; Settlers Protest

NC0901122395 Paris AFP in English 1150 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kibbutz Manara, Israel, Jan 9 (AFP)—Several dozen Jewish settlers from the Golan Heights demonstrated Monday [9 January] as US Defence Secretary William Perry flew over the strategic plateau, an AFP correspondent reported.

The protest took place by Manara, a collective farming village close to the border with Lebanon, from where Perry observed the Golan before taking a helicopter.

Demonstrators carried placards saying: "We will not move from the Golan".

They demanded a meeting with Perry but were kept away from him.

The United States acts as intermediary in peace negotiations between Syria and Israel which has offered to hand back most of the plateau in the return for peace with open borders.

He also toured an air force base with air force chief Herzl Bodinger and visited an Israeli Aircraft Industries plant developing the Arrow anti-missile missile with US funding.

Perry was due to hold a press conference later Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

According to Israeli radio, Perry said during a meeting with Rabin on Monday that talk of a possible US military deployment on the Golan Heights in any peace deal with Syria was "premature."

Syria has demanded a total Israeli withdrawal from the heights, captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Golan Settlers Demonstrate Near Pe'er

TA0901110795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dozens of Golan Heights residents this morning demonstrated near the Pe'er observation post in Upper Galilee, from where U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry viewed northern Israel. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that the settlers carried placards and sent off balloons with slogans against withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Rabin Comments on Regional, Palestinian Issues

JN0601172795 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Jan 95 pp 15-19

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Jihan Faruq al-Husayni at the Knesset in "occupied Jerusalem"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Husayni] Does the difference with Syria on whether priority should be given to normalization or to withdrawal merit all this controversy? Is normalization not the logical result of peace which is based on withdrawal, not the opposite?

[Rabin] We must take into consideration the basic assumption that a peace treaty should serve the vital interests not only of Israel but also of Syria. Hence, the three components of the peace treaty for both parties; namely—security arrangements, normalization, and withdrawal. Therefore, these components constitute the nature of peace, and they are essential.

I do not believe that the difference with Syria is over priorities only. Ultimately, normalization of relations depends on the peace treaty, and withdrawal comes as a natural outcome of this treaty. A viable treaty, which will result in withdrawal, should contain all the basics, such as normal and ordinary peace relations between two countries. These inevitable and essential matters not only merit discussion, as you suggested in your question, they also require many profound discussions.

[Al-Husayni] There is information that the gap between Israel and Syria regarding normalization and the timetable for withdrawal is narrowing. Meanwhile, it has been said that the major obstacles are represented by Israel's insistence on imposing a demilitarized zone that covers an area reaching the Damascus border, in addition to their interference in the size of the Syrian forces?

[Rabin] The talks with Syria are like the talks with Jordan, the Palestinians, and Lebanon; they began after the Madrid conference. The Government of Israel, which I am honored to head, did its utmost to understand the stands of the other negotiating parties and tried to narrow the gaps between stands. It even tried to show flexibility vis-a-vis stands, including the Syrian stands, despite the entailed dangers. The objective is to achieve peace provided that this does not conflict with the vital security interests of the State of Israel. On this basis, an agreement was reached on part of a draft joint Israeli-Syrian declaration of principles. Regrettably, Syria did not exert the same level of efforts to narrow the gaps and to reach an agreement on the rest of the points of the joint declaration of principles.

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I believe that no genuine breakthrough can be achieved if no similar efforts are exerted. The peace process will remain deadlocked if no tangible progress is achieved. Past experiments showed that holding quiet talks far from the media, like the ones held with Egypt and the Palestinians, can achieve genuine progress.

[Al-Husayni] Frankly, do you really want to fully withdraw from the Golan?

[Rabin] The Israeli Government, under my chairmanship, was the first to announce its readiness to withdraw from the Golan. However, we will not discuss the framework or the area from which we will withdraw before making sure of the conditions and nature of the peace proposed by Syria. We also want to make sure about the security arrangements within the framework of the peace treaty.

[Al-Husayni] Why do you insist on meeting Hafiz al-Asad?

[Rabin] Because the negotiations have reached an impasse. There is an urgent need to reach understanding and decisive decisions directly and on the highest levels. I do not need to explain to you or to the AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI readers that President Hafiz al-Asad is the decisionmaker. Taking into consideration that we are former military men who waged fierce battles and who have a real desire to achieve the desires of our people, we can assume that a summit between me and him would achieve essential progress that would pave the way for a peace treaty between our countries.

[Al-Husayni] This means that you consider President al-Asad serious in peace, and that peace will eventually be realized. On what level are the secret negotiations held with Syria?

[Rabin] Yes, I believe that President Hafiz al-Asad wants peace as his statements show. However, we should scrutinize and study the nature of this peace from the Syrian viewpoint. The talks taking place at present, which can be described as calm and away from the press, are basically held between the ambassadors of the two countries Itamar Rabinovich and Walid al-Mu'allim. They were recently joined by military experts at the highest levels.

[Al-Husayni] Do you expect a precise date for peace with Syria?

[Rabin] Anyone who looks at the political schedule in the region will find the chances of Israel adopting crucial decisions after 1995 to be slim. We and the United States will be involved in new elections, which are part of the democratic realities in both countries. Therefore, I hope that we will be able to remove all the obstacles facing peace with Syria during 1995.

[Al-Husayni] It seems that the negotiations with Syria have begun a new phase following the recent meeting in Washington between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff. How do you view these negotiations now? Are you optimistic about them?

[Rabin] I believe that much progress has taken place in the negotiations with Syria under U.S. sponsorship in light of the talks held at the highest military levels on the security arrangements that will be adopted after reaching a peace treaty. I want to point out that the fact that both sides agreed to hold these talks openly is, in itself, an important step. This is because the possibility of reaching an understanding is greater when the talks are held at the highest levels. Today, I look with hope to the important step that was made represented in the Syrian-Israeli contacts.

[Al-Husayni] What prevents peace in Lebanon? And why do you want this small country to remain stifled by its problems?

[Rabin] The only obstacle facing peace with Lebanon is terrorism. This is what the Lebanese, not only the negotiating delegation in Washington, know well. The Lebanese also know very well that the source of terrorism on their land is Hizballah and the rejectionist organizations, whose strength is derived from non-Lebanese parties and which serve foreign interests, including a desire to change Lebanon into a terrorist republic similar to Iran. Hizballah and the other rejectionist organizations in Lebanon and in Arab Maghreb and Arab east countries work to torpedo internal stability and destroy national unity through murder, sabotage, and incitement to carry out violence in order to topple government. It seems that these parties want to keep Lebanon—this small country as you described it in your question—stifled by its internal problems.

[Al-Husayni] Do you have the courage to admit that you were involved in security incidents in Lebanon such as the explosion in Sayidat al-Najat Church?

[Rabin] I think that the responsible authorities and those who have access to information in Lebanon are the ones who need courage to reveal the reality of the security incidents, as you described them, including the church explosion. There is only one thing that is beyond doubt, it is that Israel was not among those involved in these incidents.

[Al-Husayni] Don't nations have the right to resist, and don't the Lebanese have the right to defend their territories? And why do you view national resistance as terrorism?

[Rabin] You can return to statements made by Hizballah leaders and their masters in Tehran. They prove that we are looking at a terrorist movement that has deep roots outside Lebanon. This terrorism prevents a peace treaty between Israel and Lebanon under which Lebanon can spread its national sovereignty over all its territories and not only over the border area in the south. Hence, this terrorism or resistance, as you describe it, prevents

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Lebanon from spreading its sovereignty over its territories, including the international border area in the south. There should be no sovereignty other than that of Lebanon and any legitimacy and will other than that of Lebanon. The Lebanese Army should be allowed to resume its duty as the only protector of Lebanon. Resistance should have been launched by the army and not by terrorist, outlawed, and irregular groups.

It is also very important to take into account the other components of peace in Lebanon, as well as ways to guarantee the security, future, and prosperity of all the inhabitants of the region, including the soldiers and commanders of the South Lebanese Army who should be merged with the regular army.

[Al-Husayni] Do you view the recent international indifference to Resolution 425 as and entrenchment of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon?

[Rabin] There is no Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. There is only a limited Israeli presence there due to the absence of security arrangements suitable for application on the ground and not mere promises and commitments on paper. Such security arrangements with Lebanon should prove to be successful, including the time factor and the removal from the army of terrorist organizations like Hizballah. It is natural that these arrangements will form an integral part of the peace treaty. This is the only way there will be a solution between Lebanon and us. After clarifying matters, we can say that Resolution 425 does not exist because it contradicts the current peace process. Moreover, any change in the deployment of forces on either side of the border strip in accordance with Resolution 425 is absolutely out of question. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] You have previously said that you prefer seeing Syrian forces in al-Biqa' to seeing them in the Golan. Do you view the Syrian presence in al-Biqa' as a guarantee to Israel's security, and will you insist on a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon if peace with Syria is reached?

[Rabin] I do not remember saying such a thing. However, I want Lebanon to be master of itself, free, and independent; to exercise its national free will; and to make its own decisions in line with its greater national interests without pressures and non-Lebanese practices. Some people fear that Syria and Israel will make a deal at the expense of Lebanon. I do not believe in illogic deals. Those who want to deal with the current issues between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon should take into account the interests of the three countries. Any basis other than this will destabilize the situation and will prevent lasting, just, and comprehensive Middle East peace for which we are working.

[Al-Husayni] There is a military-political argument in Israel about the need to carry out a fresh invasion of Lebanon. Is this possible after the 1982 experience?

[Rabin] There is no such military-political argument in Israel. The Israeli army follows the instructions of the highest political authority; that is, the government. Naturally, the army should express its views. But it is the highest political authority that eventually makes decisions. The army executes this authority's decisions.

As for the second part of the question, every situation has its own peculiarities, timing, and requirements. We are now engaged in a political process to build a new reality in the Middle East in the interest of all its peoples. However, this does not make Israel indifferent toward those who harm its security and the safety of its citizens. This is a constant Israeli policy within the framework of self-defense.

[Al-Husayni] Why do the Palestinians complain that you are treating them with disdain. Do the Palestinians have human rights? What are they?

[Rabin] Of course the Palestinians have human rights, just like the Israelis. Regarding our dealing with the Palestinians, the Oslo and subsequent agreements, as well as what has been implemented so far on the ground and Israel's continued efforts to help the Palestinian authority, all categorically prove that your question is completely unfounded.

I personally, along with the foreign minister, have worked to expedite the transfer of funds and aid from the donor nations to the Palestinian Authority [PA] to improve the standard of living of the inhabitants. Those efforts to aid the Palestinians did not take place on the government level only, but also on other official levels. Hence, it is cynical to claim that we loathe or disdain the Palestinians.

[Al-Husayni] Is it true that you do not like 'Arafat? Consequently, do you mind if wins the presidency?

[Rabin] Personal feelings are irrelevant to diplomatic relations. Mr. 'Arafat is at the head of the PA. We agreed to consider him our partner in this strategic plan. As an Israeli citizen, I want to say nothing about the elections of others.

[Al-Husayni] Are you committed to the Oslo agreement? It is said that you consider the agreement dead and impossible to implement?

[Rabin] I want to make it unequivocally clear that Israel signed the Oslo agreement with a view to keeping to the letter and spirit of the agreement. We are committed to implementing it within the framework of the negotiations and consultations with the PA. We should not forget that we are dealing with an agreement of principles. We have implemented the first phase (Jericho-Gaza first), and we are now at the beginning of negotiations to implement the second phase of this agreement of principles.

[Al-Husayni] Will you ever accept a Palestinian state? What are the specifications of the state that you require?

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[Rabin] In accordance with the Declaration of Principles, each party is allowed to express its aspirations and to list any topic it wants on the agenda the way it wishes when we arrive at the stage of negotiations on a final settlement with the Palestinians.

[Al-Husayni] How do you envisage a solution to the problem of Jerusalem outside the cliche that it is the eternal capital of Israel?

[Rabin] Do not expect me to renounce a policy followed by a government headed by me regarding the Jerusalem issue. It is a policy that has been pursued by all previous governments of Israel. Our stand is clear. It stipulates that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and will remain under its sovereignty and that it will not be redivided. However, it is clear that this issue will be raised within the negotiations on the final status settlement. Israel has proved in word and in deed that it respects the freedom of religions. Therefore, it continues to work to keep the holy city open to followers of all faiths.

[Al-Husayni] Obviously Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] presents something of a problem. Can you possibly ignore the organization? Do you see the Israeli Government talking to Hamas?

[Rabin] On 19 September, 1993 I received a letter from Mr. 'Arafat stressing that the PLO was bringing terrorism to a halt and denouncing that kind of operations. From then on, the letter emphasized, disagreements would be worked out at the negotiating table. A subsequent letter from me to the PLO leader incorporating Israel's recognition of the PLO as a negotiating partner was conditional on my receiving that message from 'Arafat first. Since then, the PLO has not been engaged in any terrorist act. In contrast, Hamas continues to be engaged in terror. As long as this continues to be the case and Hamas does not opt for peaceful talks there is no place for negotiations with that group.

[Al-Husayni] Is there a possibility at all to free the ailing and blind Shaykh Ahmad Yasin on humanitarian grounds, seeing that his release could conceivably lead to a cessation or cutback in acts of violence carried out by Hamas?

[Rabin] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin was tried by an Israeli court of law and sentenced to a long prison term. Sadly, Hamas not only persists in spurning the peace process and the Oslo accord, but also instigates and engages in acts of terror. It is pursuing a course of murdering the Israelis and the peace process itself. As long as Hamas has not changed its position and as long as Shaykh Yasin has neither urged a stoppage to acts of terror, nor proved he is capable of bringing about a change in terroristic and murderous policies, we will not even consider reducing his jail sentence. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] You have had contacts with the Iraqis and then you stated that delivering an Israeli military strike against Iraq was still an option. Why is that?

[Rabin] I do not recall any Israeli official issuing such a threat. If anything, the situation is the other way round. It was Iraq that declared war against israel, firing rockets at Israeli urban centers. Let it be known that we will not stand by and allow Israel to be used by any country to advance its own interests to our detriment. The peace process and the multilateral talks are open to whichever regional state wishes to come on board and reap the fruits of the peace process, and that goes for Iraq.

[Al-Husayni] How do you rate the future of peace in the region? How do you rate the chances of a return to war and confrontation?

[Rabin] There is no ignoring the radical changes that have swept the world and the clear shift from the state of war to the state of peace in the Middle East. I am certain that the Middle East is now firmly set on the course of peace; war and confrontation are now definitely behind us.

[Al-Husayni] Assuming the Likud bloc wins the next elections, will the peace momentum be sustained?

[Rabin] Israel is a state grounded in institutions and law. The reins of power in Israel have changed hands several times since the 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, and yet there has been a consistent commitment to that pact.

'Abbas Book Alleges 1992 Labor-PLO Talks

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 7 January reports that "in a revelation that has stunned the political establishment in Israel, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], the PLO official who negotiated the Oslo agreement, claims in a new book that the Labor party held secret talks with the PLO before the 1992 elections, when contacts with the organization were still illegal under Israeli law. Portions of the book were disclosed by Israel Radio's Arab affairs reporter Yoni Ben-Menahem. According to Abu-Mazin, the contacts were aimed at toppling the Likud in the elections. He says they were started two months before the elections by Efrayim Sne, on the instructions of Yitzhaq Rabin, and Sa'id Kan'an, for PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat. Abu-Mazin says Sne asked the PLO to thwart the peace talks in Washington under the Likud government by making demands, such as a freeze on all settlement activity in the territories. In this way, the talks would explode and the Likud would be pushed into a corner before the elections.

"In response, Sne and other Labor party ministers strongly denied Abu-Mazin's claims. Sne confirmed that he had met with Sa'id Kan'an in April 1992, several days after the Labor party primaries, but denied that they had discussed torpedoing the talks in Washington.

"The Likud party has reacted with shock to the disclosure. Likud chairman, Binyamin Netanyahu, says he will convene the party's leadership tomorrow to discuss the issue, and he expects cooperation from the Labor party

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to establish the truth of the matter. The then prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir, called the report extremely serious, and said the actions, if proven, border on treason."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0805 GMT on 7 January, in the morning newsreel program, quotes Health Minister Efrayim Sne as saying that HA'ARETZ published this entire "sensational" story about two months ago, after Abu-Mazin's book was published in Europe. Sne is quoted as saying that he indeed met Kan'an on 3 April 1992, but that the "entire story on Labor-PLO coordination is unfounded."

In the same report, Arab affairs correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem says that Abu-Mazin's "complete" book, "The Path to Oslo," was issued in Jordan a few days ago, and that he has read the entire book, in Arabic, including the protocols which refer to the secret meetings between then head of the Civil Administration in the territories Efrayim Sne and Sa'id Kan'an. Ben-Menahem recounts that "in a meeting on 10 April 1992, Sa'id Kan'an relayed a message to Efrayim Sne from the PLO leadership, which said that the PLO is pleased with Labor's platform and is prepared to aid the party. We want high-level meetings, the message stated, on Yitzhaq Rabin's level. Incidentally, in his reports to the PLO, Sa'id Kan'an used the codeword Y.R. for Yitzhaq Rabin. Rabin's answer to this message, through Efrayim Sne: We are serious; these contacts must not be leaked out. You in the PLO, pay attention to the declarations you release; we are following every word.

"The third meeting between Sne and Kan'an was held at the end of April 1992. According to the protocols in Abu-Mazin's book, Sne asked the PLO not to express any support for or solidarity with Labor or Meretz so that this does not hurt them. The message Sne passed on to the PLO said that every Arab vote is important in the elections, and the PLO should ask the Israeli Arabs, including the Islamic Movement, to participate in the elections. Your message must be absolutely clear, Sne demanded of the PLO; it must be clear to the Arabs not to vote for any party, including the Likud and the NRP [National Religious Party], which supports settlements."

Ben-Menahem continues: "In the message he relayed to the PLO Efrayim Sne also related to the issue of peace talks in Washington. You in the PLO must not present these talks as Yitzhaq Shamir's victory. We in Labor want the following formula: Let there be no progress in the Washington talks, but do not let these talks run aground either. Do not raise in the Washington talks issues which antagonize the Israeli people, such as Jerusalem and the permanent solution to the Palestinian problem. Sne asked the PLO to place on the Washington negotiating table the autonomy issue and the political elections in the territories. Although these two issues are mentioned in Camp David, Sne said, we believe the Likud will not agree to this, and this will set Israeli public opinion against it. Sne asked the PLO to raise the issue of a freeze on settlements; this, he said, will push the Likud into a corner.

"In his book, Abu-Mazin writes that on 20 April 1992 Sa'id Kan'an relayed the PLO's reply. The PLO's reply stated that Yasir 'Arafat knows of all contacts and supports them. We read your message, the PLO's reply said, and we will do everything you ask regarding the election issue. We have begun to do so already, out of internal conviction. We are serious about the political process. In its reply message the PLO also said that Rabin's remarks that he would implement autonomy within six to nine months are serious and responsible. In that meeting Efrayim Sne said that the Jordanian option is dead and there is no way back to it. We are prepared, Sne said on behalf of Labor, to discuss any subject connected to the Palestinian issue."

Ben-Menahem points out that "Chapters of Abu-Mazin's book were also published in AL-HAYAH, which is issued in Arabic in Europe, but they apparently did not catch any journalist's eye." Ben-Menahem adds that "PLO personages yesterday did not like the fact that Qol Yisra'el intends to break this story, saying it may harm the peace process and undermine the status of Labor, which is suffering from a crisis as it is." Ben-Menahem claims that in a talk with Kan'an yesterday, "he confirmed that the individual involved is Efrayim Sne, adding that he held about 20 meetings with him before the elections, and every word written in the book is true. Kan'an told me that 'Arafat and Abu-Mazin chose him personally to hold the contacts with Labor. Being well-aware of the possible repercussions of such a revelation in Israel though, Kan'an told me that he prefers not to be interviewed, that he does not want to run into any complications.

"Additional anecdotes from Abu-Mazin's book: In the meeting on 20 April 1992, according to the protocols, the PLO asked that Labor give it an opinion on relations between Yitzhaq Shamir and David Levi, on the intensity of the crisis between the two, and on whether the dispute between them works in Labor's favor. After the elections, when the results became known, the PLO sent another message through Sa'id Kan'an and Efrayim Sne to Labor. In this message, and I quote, the PLO states: After the election results became known, we want to tell you, Labor, that we were at a loss before because we were afraid that Yitzhaq Shamir would return to power, thus putting the lid on the opportunity for peace. However, we anticipated that Rabin would win the elections, especially after we perused Labor's platform and Yitzhaq Rabin's declarations during the election campaign. The PLO said: Even if we did not manage in our task of uniting all Arab parties in Israel, we can still say that the efforts we invested helped Labor to assume power—in this message the PLO then takes credit for the election results—and Rabin can now set up a coalition with any party, without needing to rely on any right-wing party. We are happy that Yitzhaq Rabin assumed power, but we cannot state this publicly, as this was prior to recognizing the PLO.

"The message went on to say: If Rabin truly wants to understand the importance we in the PLO attributed to elections in Israel, let us tell you that we opened five operational sites in various places around the world in

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order to follow up these elections." Ben-Menahem reemphasizes that the protocols have not been published in Israel before; he believes an Israeli paper published a brief report on contacts between Sne and Kan'an, but that it did not mention the nature of these contacts.

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 7 January reports that "the PLO says there is no truth to the statements contained in a book by Abu-Mazin regarding coordination between the Labor party and the PLO as part of an effort to influence the 1992 general elections in Israel. Speaking at a press conference this afternoon at the Ambassador Hotel in East Jerusalem, Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi said that the protocols regarding this matter were given to Abu-Mazin by one of his aides. Al-Tibi refused to name the aide. A spokesman for PLO leader 'Arafat said that the statements published by Abu-Mazin are not accurate. He stressed that the PLO did not interfere in Israeli internal politics. Another senior PLO official, Nabil Sha'th, repeated the denials, and said he felt the whole affair is being used by the opposition in Israel.

"The man at the center of the controversy, Abu-Mazin, spoke a short while ago with Hanan 'Ashrawi. She told a Qol Yisra'el reporter that Abu-Mazin said that the PLO did not in any way attempt to influence Israel's elections or the vote by Israeli Arabs. According to al-Tibi, the PLO is aware of just one meeting between Sa'id Kan'an and Efrayim Sne. Earlier, Health Minister Efrayim Sne strongly denied statements appearing in the Abu-Mazin book regarding meetings with Kan'an, at which Sne reportedly attempted to influence the 1992 elections with the help of the PLO. Sne said he met Kan'an only once, in Herzliyya, at Kan'an's request. The Prime Minister's Office has come out in strong support of the health minister's version of the events."

Also, "the Likud faction plans to demand the appointment of a parliamentary investigation into the ties between the PLO and the Labor party prior to the 1992 elections. Knesset members 'Uzi Landau and Tzahi Hanegbi have made an official request for such an investigation to the Knesset speaker, Shevah Weiss."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 7 January, in a follow-up report, adds that "Kan'an retracted his version that he had met Sne about 20 times, and that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin participated in one of the meetings. In an interview with our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem, Kan'an said he met Sne before the elections and discussed with him matters related to support for the peace process, but not internal Israeli affairs. According to Kan'an, he has not yet read Abu-Mazin's book, and therefore does not want to comment on it. Our correspondent notes that Sa'id Kan'an has retracted his version due to pressures exerted on him by the PLO."

Reaction to Alleged 'Arafat-Labor Contacts

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 7 January reports that " 'Arafat was infuriated today about the report on coordination with Labor. He is angry about everything, and he too asks why the story was recycled today of all days."

The television also reports reactions by the Israeli opposition, as follows:

"Tzomet leader, Knesset Member [MK] Refa'el Eytan, says that Labor again proves that it does everything in order to reach power, even at the expense of the life and security of Israel's citizens.

"Moledet's head, MK Ze'evi, says the Sne-Kan'an meetings were against the law, and they aim at undermining the foundations of government.

"The NRP [National Religious Party] said in reaction that the political scheming concocted on the eve of elections reminds one of a puppet theater: Rabin's only choice now is to appoint 'Arafat as defense minister in his government."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 7 January reports that "Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] denies that the PLO intervened in the Knesset elections and tried to influence the Israeli Arab vote. In a talk with an Israel Television Arabic correspondent, Abu-Mazin said that in their meeting, Sne and Kan'an did not discuss these matters. He added though that the meeting dealt with Arab sector affairs and with the question as to how the Arab sector can unite its ranks."

Also reacting, "MAPAM [United Workers Party] head, Hanan Erez, said that Netanyahu should examine himself before he attacks the government which is working for peace. Erez claims that according to the information he possesses, Netanyahu relayed messages to the U.S. Administration whereby he will agree to far-reaching compromise on the Golan if he assumes power."

Morocco's 'First Diplomatic Representation' Reported

TA0701194995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jan 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Without publicizing this, Morocco has established a first diplomatic representation in Israel. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that the Moroccan representative, Talal (Gufruni), stayed in Israel for three weeks last month and rented a building in the center of Tel Aviv. He did so about three months after Israel established its representation in Rabat. The Moroccan representative, who also rented a house for himself, returned to his country, and will come back in the middle of the month with his aides and their families.

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King Issues Letter of Designation to Bin-Shakir

JN0701194195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Jan 95

["Text" of letter of designation addressed by King Husayn to Prime Minister Designate al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir on 7 January—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your Excellency esteemed brother al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, may God watch over you. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

I extend to you my sincerest regards and profound appreciation, coupled with deep confidence in your person, loyalty, and allegiance. You have been my companion in my life's journey, since its difficult beginnings, when we, along with the sons of this beloved homeland, rose to pursue our development process, whose foundations were laid down by the founding grandfather, 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, may his soul rest in peace. 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn was supported by the loyal, free men of the nation, prominent among them was Shakir Bin-Zayd, may his soul rest in peace. Those men held the banner of the Great Arab Revolt high in the skies of the Arab countries and struggled for the cause of the freedom, independence, and unity of those countries.

Throughout this long journey, I have known you, even as a well-meaning and resolute Hashemite young man when you were in the ranks of our valiant Armed Forces. You have been, and still are, a dependable man whenever the homeland calls its sons for a difficult responsibility or important task.

I have tried you when I assigned you more than once the task of forming the government to rid the homeland of some of the crises it has suffered. Your performance was an example to be followed in terms of firmness, integrity, worthiness, and sacrifice. Just like us, the Hashemites, you have always been dedicated to all of the homeland and all its sons alike.

The homeland has managed—thanks to the success granted by God and the resolve of its loyal sons—to surpass a critical stage of its history, during which it has boosted its steadfastness, adhered further to its constant principles, sought to entrench its democratic process, and struggled to regain its rights to its land and waters. Having achieved all of this, it is now on the threshold of a new stage that has its own requirements and facts. Thus, all energies and efforts should be mobilized to deal with this stage consciously, comprehensively, and methodically. The purpose of this is to enhance national progress and bring about change in order to establish social justice, tolerance, and responsible pluralism and introduce radical reform in the economy, education, and administration.

In line with the above and based on the resignation of the government of brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, I am hereby designating you to form a government for this stage. We hope this government will—through the competent, distinguished, and promising personalities that you will choose for it—be able to shoulder its grave responsibilities and face the challenges and requirements of the stage with due confidence and capability. Foremost among these responsibilities are asserting the supremacy of the law, maintaining security and stability, and enhancing our democratic process in light of nationalistic pluralism and a climate of tolerance, integrity, and awareness—a climate that boosts national unity among all the sons of the homeland.

This is a stage in which people are being tossed by psychological factors between excessive optimism and expectations for an imminent radical change in their living standards under the canopy of peace, on the one hand, and frustration being caused by those who do not believe in it for various reasons and those who propagate its failure to achieve what we want for this unified, noble, steadfast people, who have offered many sacrifices and unparalled humanitarian work, who are always confident of themselves, who are able to shoulder the responsibilities of the present, and who are confident they will reach the progress they want in order to achieve their aspirations for a promising future that will bring prosperity, stability, force, and growth.

For all this, the current stage requires us to complete the building of the state of institutions by modernizing the legislation, developing the administration, attracting skilled people, spreading team spirit among workers everywhere, enlightening people of their rights and duties, and putting Jordan's higher interests above all other interests and considerations. It is natural that this requires more commitment to the Constitution and the principles of the National Charter, which have both ensured equality among the sons of this dear homeland that is still committed, like our fathers and forefathers, to carrying the banner of the Great Arab Revolt and to being a haven for the nation's honorable and free people and strugglers and for every one seeking its help to oppose oppression, injustice, or tyranny.

Our brave Armed Forces, the inheritors of the army of the great Arab Revolt, the protector of the homeland, the guardian of democracy, and the conveyor of Jordan's beautiful picture to the world should be a top priority for your government with the aim of reorganizing, reequipping, and arming the ground, air, and naval forces, as required by the current stage, and promoting the qualifications of their personnel to the level that will enable them to carry out their mission in the best manner possible while they are carrying out their sacred duty of defending the dear homeland and playing their role in the region's security and participating on a large scale in peacekeeping forces in many troubled areas of the world. This participation was distinguished, as the world has witnessed.

In this context, the personnel of all our security organs, who are looking after the citizen's security and the

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homeland's safety and who are foiling the intrigues of its enemies, should also be provided with what they need so that they can, as usual, carry out their sacred national duty and achieve stability and the peace of mind in accordance with the best bases and means, realizing that our enlightened people to which they belong are supporting them and helping them carry out their duties toward this dear homeland.

Some of the requirements of the new stage prompt us to reconsider many of our plans and programs in various areas by adopting planning means based on studied and scientific methods in order to explore the needs of the homeland, to analyze the dimensions of its problems, and to draw up solutions within our energy, capability, and independent national will. Therefore, it is necessary to release the energy of the youth, organize their capabilities, and guide them for the benefit of the homeland through organized, studied volunteer work all over the homeland.

Guiding youth to vocational education and respecting manual labor stands as a national responsibility that should receive full attention from us in order to meet the requirements of the Jordanian market for trained Jordanian workers who are able to replace the foreign workers, whose number has increased and is increasing at unacceptable rates.

It should be emphasized that the trade unions should concentrate—each in its field—on their main tasks and the justification of their existence, which is upgrading the level of the profession and those working in this profession in terms of efficiency and ability, as well as the work that is met with the homeland's gratitude for the level these unions reach and the chances they provide for those who belong to them to make an honorable living. This should be the course that is followed instead of being stalemated and rehashing talks on politics and other issues, for which the trade unions have not been established and which they do not have the means and justifications to deal with.

As for the fields of education, culture, and information, we emphasize the need to continue improving the standard of education so that it will reach the best human conditions, and the need to pay attention to the nationalist aspects of education, which teaches our sons love rather than fear, thought rather than dictation, allegiance rather than subservience, and tolerance rather than fanaticism .

Our universities, of which we are proud, should remain shining centers of freedom of thought and expression and dialogue among different views, and should continue as centers for serious and creative scientific research through which the Jordanians enrich human achievements in science, research, and knowledge. Our universities should be supported so that they will continue to be able to realize distinguished standards, based on quality and high efficiency, and not merely achievements based on quantity, which in several cases may lack depth, policy, and clear vision.

Taking care of Al al-Bayt University, which we presented as a valuable gift to the homeland and the Arab nation, should be one of your government's top concerns so that this university will be, God willing, the shining center that we wanted for contemporary Islamic thought, in which the best sons of the Arab nation, scholars, researchers, preachers, and students take part.

As for culture, ensuring the freedom of the intellectual is what enables him to be talented and creative and enables him to express the living conscience of his people, and enhances the spirit of allegiance to the values of goodness, right, and justice. Therefore, supporting our cultural establishments and ensuring the chances for an honorable living and continuous care for the creative ones is something that we ask you to take into consideration.

Likewise, enhancing the possibilities for communications with the world and to be open to its cultural and intellectual achievements is a basic demand to ensure the development of a distinguished Jordanian cultural movement.

The mass media which carry the image of the new Jordan should express the spirit of this country, the march of its people, and its democratic climate as it presents to the nation an example of the best images of the relationship between freedom, consciousness, and the defense of the nation's interests. Thus, reconsidering and reevaluating the performance of our media institutions is the first step toward building a modern Jordanian information institution capable of conveying the message of this country through a free, serious press whose credibility and balanced reporting would attract the best of the nation's writers. Such an institution would open video and audio space channels to every pure voice believing in the message of the nation and its future. It would also enhance relations between Jordanians working abroad and their homeland and kinfolk, and would convey to these kinfolk the role of those dear sons, who are scattered all over the world in pursuit of education and work, raising the country's name high everywhere.

As for the Jordanian press, the best experts should review the legislation governing it to guarantee its continued development toward a distinctive level that expresses the spirit and values of this homeland. The press must also stay away from sensationalism, demagoguery, and instigation, and all that is alien to this people's values, their nationalist identity, and affiliation.

While we take care to guarantee freedom of speech, we emphasize our rejection of all those who seek to harm our democratic course, and exploit this freedom to infiltrate into the ranks of our national march for purposes of their own, or for an objective others who do not wish any good for this homeland incite them to attain. Some have been explicit in their insistence on distorting the image of the homeland and in pursuing their course to undermine its credibility on all levels, and vilify words and pictures to a level that if it continues, we fear will

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bring about a reaction that will harm what we seek to protect in terms of the freedom of responsible words and opinion. Such a loss in the midst of triviality and mediocrity, if it takes place, God forbid, does not represent our people and has absolutely nothing to do with us.

The fields of reform that are required at this stage call for work to complete the establishment and the modernization of the infrastructure and the laws on environment and its protection, not to mention the planning for industry and tourism and regulating its requirements and developing it on modern bases which should be carried out as soon as possible.

All the above should also take into consideration issues of the utmost importance, the most prominent being the confrontation of the problem of unemployment and poverty. This requires the exertion of the greatest efforts within the framework of comprehensive development in the fields of economy, investment, and administrative reform, and giving the private sector the opportunity to carry out its national role of developing industry, agriculture, and other fields. Also the needs of Royal Jordanian should be tackled, and its fleet increased and modernized so that it can carry out its task and remain a bridge that links Jordan to the many parts of the world and an ambassador that will represent Jordan and the nation worldwide.

The provision of health care to the broadest portion of the citizens, supporting the funds that offer assistance to needy families, the expansion of the social security umbrella, and the great care that should be given to agriculture in light of the opportunities that will become available as a result of our regaining of our water rights, the dams that will be built, and the optimal exploitation of water sources are all part of the responsibilities of your government, which we hope will succeed in reaching conclusive results in these fields throughout the homeland.

Comprehensive reform needs qualified cadres who are known for their patriotism and awareness of what this stage needs, and who are also known for their integrity, which will not permit any deviation, infringements, or exploitation of public office at the expense of the people's interests and rights. That is why the reconstruction process we have announced and the change we seek cannot take place by wishful thinking overnight but needs time, effort, patience, security, and stability, and work and construction with a clear vision, and a confidence in the inevitability of the attainment of our goals.

To achieve this, emphasis should be placed on the fact that this homeland, with the ability for patience and steadfastness that God has endowed it, and the legitimacy of the leadership, revolution, history, and achievements deserves that we all contribute, each from his own position and with all that one can offer, to build it and defend its name and image with the same spirit with which our valiant soldiers defend its borders, security, and stability. The media and rostrums of this homeland should also be voices of truth that defend it and that communicate to the world its purest voice and its most beautiful image, and portray its tolerant Islamic and Arab identity. This is so because this homeland, with its people and sacrifices, has much to say, or much that should be said to serve its mission and perform its duty to its nation and itself.

We hope that in the next few years we will be able to complete the picture of the state of institutions and law in which the relationship among the three branches is based, in accordance with the Constitution, on a delicate balance so that none of these branches will overwhelm or override the other. At the same time, we stress the need for establishing rules for dialogue and complimentarity among these branches in a climate in which each exercises its role in freedom and responsibility. Thus, the executive branch will administer the affairs of the homeland with a developing vision and competence that is not obstructed by bureaucracy. Also, the Parliament should exercise its role in controlling and passing legislation. The judicial authority's independence and support for it should be ensured so that it can undertake its duties.

We praise God for what Jordan has achieved, thanks to the dedication of its sons, and for Jordan's bright image worldwide. We think all of this could not have been possible without the unceasing endeavors of all its sons in the country of the al-Ansar and al- Muhajirin [reference to Jordanians and Palestinians]. Compared to other countries in the Arab nation, this homeland has made tremendous sacrifices and honored its commitments the most, given its size and resources. After our big sister [reference to Egypt] chose the path of peace several years ago, we chose it at a public national conference. Afterward, we all proceeded from the same point to follow the path of peace. When Jordan's brothers and partners—who were sheltered under its umbrella and on whose side Jordan has fought and for whom Jordan has made great sacrifices—shouldered their responsibilities and chose their path toward peace, it was Jordan's right and duty to follow the path of peace, while holding its head high and with sincere resolve and clear vision and purpose. This was designed so that Jordan may enjoy peace—which has been achieved—and safeguard it, honor its implementation in letter and spirit—having been endorsed by the overwhelming majority of the Jordanians and their constitutional institutions—and build a bright future in its shadow.

The peace that restored to this country its territory, sovereignty over this territory, and its water rights in full is man's most noble goal. It is a peace blessed by God. We wanted it to be a fair, honorable, and comprehensive peace. It is a right for the future generations of this country that has been deprived of it for the past decades and witnessed sacrifices and suffering. We hope that the entire region will arrive at a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in which its peoples achieve security. We hope that our people will be able to pursue their march along its solid foundations within the framework of the

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values and principles they still champion. This way, they will enhance their self-confidence and oppose whoever does not want this country to remain a bright Arab star that always wants the Arab individual to usher in a new age while enjoying freedom, security, and dignity.

We want to stress here that we seek to enhance peace and gear our new and existing international relations, consciously and to the best of our ability and resources, toward the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace that promotes the wellbeing of all people. Our concern about the nation and its freedom, resources, future, and independence has been an abiding commitment throughout our historical march. We have fought the nation's battles against its enemies and sought to reconcile its sons whenever they developed disagreements. We have always been advocates of unity, solidarity, and integrity among the brothers. We seek to remove differences and disputes among them with open hearts filled with love and fraternity, without there being any weakness, relaxation, or submission. We have continued to make efforts to solve Arab differences within the framework of a unified Arab house. We have often warned of the seriousness of seditions that emerged in various forms, leaving many parts of the greater Arab homeland prey to hunger, infighting, and blockades, and weakening them all in the face of challenges and difficulties.

Our nation is active and capable of awakening, and its new revival will certainly take place. We in Jordan are seeking to be in the lead and among the advocates of its freedom to formulate the future of its generations apart from fear, hunger, prejudice, and others' domination. In this stage, we would like to focus once again on Jordan's status in this world, on the importance of promoting it, and on strengthening Jordan's relations with the world's countries and blocs in order to achieve the best cooperation with them based on mutual respect, which will preserve the interests of both the homeland and the nation, which will defend right and principles, and which will strengthen Jordan's status and its role in the new human scene.

Our national history has been a series of efforts to defend the nation's rights, foremost of which is the effort of the Palestinian people to regain their rights, which we hope their leadership, which has assumed the responsibility of representing them at the blessing and agreement of the Arabs, will achieve for them. Here, we stress our determination to support the Palestinian people and to continue to care as much as we can for the sanctities of the nation in holy Jerusalem as a trust that we will safeguard in the name of the nation until its status is dealt with in a proper and acceptable way.

While we hope that the upcoming government will try to achieve all the contents of this letter with clear vision, studied plans and timetables, Jordan's resolution, and sincere efforts, we wish you and your colleagues every success in your endeavor. We also hope that your efforts will succeed while we await the names of your esteemed colleagues who will shoulder along with you these national and pan-Arab responsibilities. For my part, you will find me beside you and the Jordanian people, for whom I live and will live as long as God wants me to live, working to bolster the bases of its lofty structure, its virtuous life, its strength, its glory, its stability, its security, its safety, its progress, and its prosperity.

All this is an ultimate trust, an ultimate commitment, and an ultimate honor that I will handle, taking pride in my belonging to the family of God's messenger, God's prayers and peace be upon him, and to the people of dear Jordan, in which I saw light for the first time. I am proud of belonging to them and I will remain so as long as I live. I want nothing other than almighty God's satisfaction, success, and guidance, beseeching him to place us among the good people at the end of our struggle—good people, who will meet him holding the records of their good deeds. May God grant us success. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Bin-Shakir Replies

JN0801201095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jan 95

[Reply message by Prime Minister-Designate al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir to King Husayn's letter of designation on 8 January—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful.

Your Majesty King Husayn, may God protect you.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

I have received your grand letter of designation with a heart that was throbbing with your love, and with allegiance to the Hashemite throne that will continue as long as I am alive. Throughout my life, you have honored me with working by your side as a soldier of the Arab Revolt, which you inherited and promoted, and from which you sought inspiration in the course of your efforts to build the homeland and transform it into an oasis of security and stability admired by free people who believe in freedom and democracy and appreciate the efforts of those who are loyal to the message.

This designation is a noble new Hashemite gesture you are making toward me. As for the other noble gestures you have made toward me, they are uncountable. As long as I live, I will continue to recall with pride and loftiness the days of my life that I have spent with you, through thick and thin, and on which we both worked persistently to promote the wellbeing of this homeland and its sons.

Your Majesty: I agree with you that the homeland you have loved and sought to build, and whose sons you have striven to serve, is on the threshold of a new phase that

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needs, now more than ever before, the efforts of its sons and the unleashing of all their potential for constructive and creative action.

Your Majesty: You, along with your faithful people and valiant army, have waged a jihad and made sacrifices to promote all Arab causes, chief among which is the Palestinian Arab people's cause. You have been at the forefront of the faithful group that has chosen to vindicate the rights of the homeland and the nation in all fields.

Thanks to your efforts, Jordan has managed to regain all its sovereign water and territorial rights. This is a step in the efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace. At present, you are continuing the efforts to defend the Palestinian people's rights and care for the nation's holy shrines in holy Jerusalem. Your only purpose in all this is to obtain the satisfaction of almighty God and keep the trust honorably.

Your Majesty: Your valiant Armed Forces, who have upheld the honorable message, and whose spears have never been dented—these ardently loyal soldiers of yours whose resolve has never been weakened—will be the focus of the government's attention in terms of armament, organization, supplies, and all that could provide them with the ingredients of strength, immunity, and support. Moreover, it will extend its care to security organs so that they will all remain the epitome of the homeland's pride and immunity, the protectors of its security and stability, and the guardians of its democracy and liberties.

The government will pay special attention to the youth, the homeland's promise and hope, by facilitating for them general and university education that meets the needs of the present and the future—education that is committed to the values of the nation and that responds to the realities and requirements of the age. The energy of the youth shall be processed through channels that help them work and be creative in all possible spheres.

The government will also work to complete the basic structure and provide social and health services and security in a fair manner for all regions, particularly the less developed regions. Among our top priorities will be supporting and organizing the agricultural sector, activating the economy, unleashing the energies of the private sector, encouraging investment in agriculture, industry, and tourism, and protecting the environment against pollution. Utmost attention will be given to the issues of poverty and unemployment.

Your Majesty: The new stage experienced by the country, which has been consolidated by the democratic process, requires that the government safeguard, deepen, and consolidate this march. The government will be eager to fully cooperate with the legislative branch to lay the foundations of parliamentary experience in all its dimensions in a manner that enables the legislative and executive branches to undertake their constitutional duties in the best manner possible. Constructive dialogue and adherence to national responsibility will be the basis of cooperation with the deputies and senators of the nation.

Our quest for peace was launched through an explicit and clear public will, represented in a national conference that was convened for this purpose. Our endeavor was blessed by our constitutional establishments. If our previous meeting was under the umbrella of our National Charter, we are certain that the unions, federations, societies, commissions, and all similar bodies will, under the shadow of peace, be eager to bear their responsibilities toward the homeland and its people with full awareness. This is because we all go back to the Constitution as our judge, abide by laws, and consider brave national action a yardstick of allegiance and affiliation. We do not think that any departure from this action or refusal to abide by a commitment to the decision of the majority or attempting to split national consensus can possibly serve the homeland and achieve its hopes and aspirations.

The issue of public liberties will be given great care by the government so that every citizen can feel assured about his rights and liberties. We will also work on protecting political pluralism in thought, opinion, and organization, and on ensuring compliance with the supremacy of law, which was stipulated by the Constitution and detailed by the National Charter. We will also give great attention to culture and information to highlight their central role in the society without excessiveness or negligence and away from any fanaticism or exaggeration.

The government will seriously work on ensuring the independence of the judiciary and on supporting the judicial branch by bolstering its staff and providing it with the administrative agencies that will help it fulfill its role, in which we always take pride, so that the judiciary can fulfill its role without any obstacles and so that the legal process will become simplified and available to all.

Your Majesty: The government will take care to highlight Jordan's Arab role as an advocate of solidarity, integration, and unity among the brothers and to overcome all differences and issues of conflict so that the nation can unite its ranks to face the challenges and build its cohesive society in all circumstances and cases. The government will also pay attention to Jordan's relations with the Muslim and friendly states and highlight Jordan's cultural role and international status on all levels.

Your Majesty: Your letter of designation will be the basis on which the government will build its working plan in accordance with a clear and specific program. It is, we believe, a comprehensive national course that reflects deep vision to build the state of institutions, establish social justice and pluralism, and bring about radical reform in the fields of economy, education, and administration. We will always be in need of your guidance. We

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beseech God almighty to preserve you and to grant you excellent health and constant success.

As I submit to your majesty my recommendations on the names of my colleague ministers, I petition your majesty to endorse them.

Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

[Signed] Your loyal servant Zayd Bin-Shakir

[Dated] Amman, 7 Sha'ban 1415 hegira, corresponding to 8 January 1995

New Cabinet Announced, Sworn In

JN0801174995 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1730 GMT 8 Jan 95

[From the "News Headlines" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The new cabinet of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir was sworn in before his majesty the king this evening. The 31-man cabinet is comprised of a mixture of veteran politicians, members of parliament, and technocrats.

Key appointments include 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, deputy prime minister and education minister; Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and information minister; 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, foreign minister; Salamah Hammad, interior minister; Basil Jardanah, finance minister; and Mrs. Rima Khalaf, planning minister. The cabinet includes another woman, Mrs. Salwa al-Masri, minister of social development.

Royal Decree Issued

JN0801192195 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The following royal decree has been issued forming the new cabinet:

We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in light of the resignation of Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and taking cognizance of Article 35 of the Constitution, decree the following:

His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir will be appointed prime minister and minister of defense. And upon the recommendation of the aforementioned prime minister,
His Excellency 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah will appointed deputy prime minister and minister of education,
His Excellency Dr. Khalid al-Karaki will be appointed deputy prime minister and minister of information,
His Excellency Dr. 'Awad Khulayfat will be appointed minister of youth,
His Excellency Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din will be appointed minister of state for cabinet affairs,
His Excellency Basil Jardanah will be appointed minister of finance,
His Excellency 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti will be appointed minister of foreign affairs,
His Excellency Jamal al-Sarayirah will be appointed minister of post and telecommunications
His Excellency Engineer Samir Qa'war will be appointed minister of transportation,
His Excellency Jamal al-Khurayshah will be appointed minister of state
His Excellency Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib will be appointed minister of industry and trade,
His Excellency Dr. Salih Irshaydat will be appointed minister of water and irrigation,
His Excellency Dr. 'Arif al-Batayinah will be appointed minister of health,
His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbadi will be appointed minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs and holy places,
His Excellency Salamah Hammad will be appointed minister of interior,
Her Excellency Dr. Rima Khalaf al-Hunaydi will be appointed minister of planning,
His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Nusur will be appointed minister of public works and housing,
His Excellency 'Adil al-Qudah will be appointed minister of supply
His Excellency Engineer Mansur Bin-Tarif will be appointed minister of agriculture
His Excellency Dr. Ratib al-Sa'ud will be appointed minister of higher education,
His Excellency Hisham al-Tall will be appointed minister of justice,
His Excellency 'Abd-al-Majid al-'Azzam will be appointed minister of state for parliamentary affairs,
His Excellency Dr. Nadir Abu-al-Sha'r will be appointed minister of labor,
His Excellency Nadir al-Zuhayrat will be appointed minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment,
His Excellency Engineer Samir al-Habashinah will be appointed minister of culture,
His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Abu-'Ulaym will be appointed minister of state,
His Excellency Taha al-Habahibah will be appointed minister of state,
His Excellency Dr. Muhyi-al-Din Tuq will be appointed minister of administrative development,
His Excellency Samih Darwazah will be appointed minister of energy and mineral resources,
His Excellency 'Abd-al-ilah al-Khatib will be appointed minister tourism and antiquities,
And Her Excellency Salwa al-Masri will be appointed minister of social development.

Issued at Basman Palace on 7 Sha'ban 1415 of the hegira, corresponding to 8 January 1995.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and the ministers took the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali; Their Highnesses Princes 'Ali and

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Hamzah, sons of his majesty the king; Their Highnesses Ghazi Bin-Muhammad, Ra'd Bin- Zayd, and 'Ali Bin-Nayif; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; his majesty's advisers; and the imam of the Hashemite court.

JORDAN TIMES on New 31-Member Government

New Cabinet Makeup Analyzed

JN0901111795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Jan 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir on Sunday [8 January] formed a 31-member government that included 17 deputies, 12 members from the al-Majali cabinet and 10 first-time ministers.

The new cabinet, which was sworn in by His Majesty King Husayn, was quickly described as a government focused on the centre of the Jordanian political spectrum. And as such, it is expected to win the approval of neither the extreme left, the extreme right nor the ultranationalists among Jordanian political parties.

Al-Sharif Zayd's third government in six years includes two deputy prime ministers, Deputy 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah who retained his old post in 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali's government as minister of education, and Khalid al-Karaki, a former chief of the Royal Court and an adviser to King Husayn, who would also hold the portfolio of information.

Of the 12 members of the previous government who retained their posts in al-Sharif Zayd's government, former Minister of Trade and Industry Rima Khalaf was the only one to change her portfolio as she moved to the Ministry of Planning.

Al-Sharif Zayd, who was designated to form the government last week, (although that was officially announced Saturday) put the final touches on it only yesterday, after three days of consultations with parliamentary blocs and representatives of political trends in the country.

Apart from the 17-member Islamic Action Front (IAF) parliamentary bloc, which is the largest and most organised, all other blocs in the Lower House as well as independent lawmakers participated in the government in accordance with different formulas worked out between them and al-Sharif Zayd.

The largest representation is from the 17-member National Action Front (NAF), which apparently succeeded in convincing the prime minister-designate to give it five portfolios so "that its representation in the government will correspond with its size."

Founder of the group 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali told the Jordan Times his bloc asked for the five portfolios but left it to the prime minister-designate to determine who of its members will head which ministry.

Mr. al-Majali, who was earlier expected to be on al-Sharif Zayd's team, said that he asked that he be excused from joining the government so that other members of the bloc can participate.

The five ministers who represent the NAF are: Ratib al-Sa'ud (higher education), Mansur Bin-Tarif (agriculture), Nadir Abu-al- Sha'r (labour), Taha al-Habahibah (State) and 'Abd al-Majid al- 'Azzam (parliamentary affairs). Mr. al-Sa'ud and Mr. Bin-Tarif held the same positions in the previous government.

The 10-member National Decmoratic Coalition (NDC) has the second largest representation in the government as it holds four portfolios that include the key Foreign Affairs Ministry which went to prominent Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, who chaired the House's Foreign Affairs Committee until his appointment in the government yesterday.

The other three members of the coalition on al-Sharif Zayd's team retained their positions in the previous government. They are Samir Qa'war (transport), Salih Irshaydat (water and irrigation), and 'Arif al-Batayinah (health).

The Jordanian National Front, which is made up of nine deputies who follow centrist policies, received two portfolios with that of state going to its president Jamal al-Khurayshah. The second is held by Mr. al-Rawabidah, who also heads the centrist al-Yaqaza party and is its only representative in the House.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nadir al-Zuhayrat is the representative of the five-member parliamentary Ikha' (brotherhood) bloc.

The five independent law-makers who joined the government are 'Awad Khulayfat (youth), Jamal al-Sarayirah (post and Telecommunication), 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib (trade and industry), Samir al-Habashinah (culture) and Muhammad Abu-'Ulaym. (state).

Ultra-nationalist leftist deputies, like the IAF, stayed out of the government. They are represented by five deputies who voted along with the islamists against the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel.

IAF spokesman Hamzah Mansur said the prime minister-designate "ignored the largest parliamentary bloc in the House" by failing to consult with them on the composition of the government.

Though al-Sharif Zayd met with IAF Deputy 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur and the overall leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, 'Abd al-Majid al- Thunaybat, the meeting did not discuss the formation of the government directly and Mr. Mansur said the meeting was with the Islamist movement and not with the IAF parliamentary bloc.

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"That meeting did not concern us. The prime minister (designate) ignored our parliamentary bloc," said Mr. Mansur.

There were earlier reports that al-Sharif Zayd was willing to offer the IAF up to two portfolios that would have included the portfolios of parliamentary affairs and state, but the offer was never made, according to sources close to the prime minister.

An influential IAF source told the Jordan Times Saturday that the group would not have accepted portfolios that did not correspond with its weight in Parliament and among the public at large.

Leftist Deputy Bassam Haddadin quoted al-Sharif Zayd as telling representatives of fellow-leftist deputies Sunday that he did not offer ministrial positions to the IAF members "because they themselves did not want to participate and because they would form opposition within the government if they joined it."

The apparent displeasure of the IAF over "ignoring" them in the process of consultation for forming the cabinet seems to weaken earlier reports that the government would have good relations with the Islamists even though they would not join it. The IAF had expected the prime minister-designate would consult with them over his team, members of the group said.

Unhappiness with the government was also expressed by Mr. Haddadin who told the JORDAN TIMES that he and his other two leftist colleagues, Khalil Haddadin and Mustafa Shunaykat, believe the government "has only one colour and is not representative of all the political trends in the country."

Bassam Haddadin and Mr. Mansur said they believed the new government was no different from its predecessors in terms of the political orientation of its members.

The new government includes three Jordanians of Palestinian origin—Dr. Khalaf, Minister of Energy Samih Darwazah and Minister of Social Development Salwa Damin-al-Masri—as well as two Christians, Minister of Transport Samir Qa'war and Minister of Finance Basil Jardanah.

Nine members of the government are from the central parts of the Kingdom, seven come from the south and equal number comes from the north. The cabinet includes one Circassian, one from the north east governorate of al-Mafraq and two from the Bani-Sakhr tribe (central bedouins).

Al-Sharif Zayd formed his first government in 1989 and his cabinet then, which included 24 ministers, supervised the first democratic parliamentary elections in the Kingdom in 23 years.

He formed his second government in 1991 after then-Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri resigned and his cabinet then won 47 votes of confidence from the 80-member House. The government was described as a right-of-centre government that lasted for about 18 months without any reshuffle or major change.

New Ministers Profiled

JN0901114595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Jan 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T)—Following are biographical sketches of first-time ministers appointed to the Cabinet of Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir yesterday.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs: 'Abd-al-Majid 'Azzam:

Born in Kafr 'An, in Irbid, Dr. 'Azzam obtained a B.Sc. from the University of Nevada in the U.S. in 1973. He earned an M.A. in political science from California State University in 1981 and a Ph.D. from Clairmont University in California in 1983. He was employed at al-Yarmuk University from 1983 to 1993 and became associate professor of political science. Dr. 'Azzam was elected to the Lower House of Parliament as an independent representative of irbid in 1993.

Minister of Labour: Nadir Abu-al-Sha'r:

Born in Al-Hisn in 1941, Mr. Abu-al-Sha'r holds a medical degree from Italy and served as the head of surgey at Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid. He served in the 1986 Lower House of Parliament and was elected as an independent representative in the 1993 elections to represent Irbid.

Minister of State Muhammad Abu-'Ulaym:

Born in al-Mafraq in 1949, Dr. Abu-'Ulaym obtained a medical degree from Athens and worked for King Husayn Medical Centre. He was later employed at the University of Chicago in the U.S. Dr. Abu- 'Ulaym has also worked in Qatar. He was a member of the Royal Commission that drafted the Kingdom's National Charter. Dr. Abu- 'Ulaym has been a al-Mafraq deputy since the 1989 elections.

Minister of State: Taha al-Habahibah:

Born in al-Shawbak in 1944, Mr. al-Habahibah obtained a B.A. in Arabic language and worked at the University of Jordan. He represented Ma'an in parliament since 1993.

Minister of Tourism and antiquities, 'Abd-al-Ilah al-Khatib:

Mr. al-Khatib, who was unavailable to provide bioraphical information late Sunday night, obtained two masters degrees, one in political science and the other in public administration. A career diplomat at the Foreign Ministry until he resigned to enter the private sector, Mr. al-Khatib participated in the Middle East peace negotiations. In his late thirties, Mr. al-Khatib is married and has three children.

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Minister of Culture: Samir al-Habashinah:

Born in Bethlehem in 1951, Mr. al-Habashinah obtained his B.A. in agriculture from Baghdad University in 1974. He worked in the agricultural field for the private and public sectors and as a columnist for AL-DUSTUR Arabic daily. He served as advisor to the minister of youth for one year ending in 1993, when he resigned to run for parliament. He was a member of the Royal Commission for the National Charter and is a member of the Centre for Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Studies Constituent Assembly. Mr. al- Habashinah was elected to the Lower House of Parliament as a member of the Jordan Arab Democratic Party from al-Karak in 1993.

Minister of Social Development: Salwa Damin al-Masri:

Born in Nabulus in 1946, Ms. Damin-al-Masri obtained a bachelors degree in nursing from the University of Jordan in 1977, a masters in demographic studies in 1984, also from the University of Jordan. From 1977 to 1982, she worked as a research assistant at the Community Medicine Department at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan. From 1982 to 1986, Ms. Damin-al-Masri worked at the Soldiers' Families Welfare Society. During the same period, she worked on a community development project. From 1986 to date, Ms. Damin-al-Masri was employed at the Nur-al-Husayn Foundation (NHF) on joint projects with the U.N., mainly concerning women and development programmes. She also participated in international conferences, including the Cairo Conference on Population and Development last year. Ms. Damin-al-Masri is married and has three children.

Minister of municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment: Nadir al-Zuhayrat:

Born in North al-Shunah in 1942, Mr. al-Zuhayrat obtained a B.A. in History from Damascus University in 1963. He worked for the Ministry of Education from 1964 to 1970. He was elected mayor of North al-Shunah in 1988. Mr. al-Zuhayrat was elected to the Lower House of Parliament as an independent representative from al-Kurah in 1993.

Minister of Administrative Development: Muhyi-al-Din Tuq:

Tuq, a university professor could not be reached Sunday night. His area of expertise is administrative development. A Circassian, Mr. Tuq has been an official at the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). He is in his 40s.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Samih Darwazah:

Born in Nabulus in 1930, Mr. Darwazah obtained a B.Sc. in pharmacy from the American University of Beirut. He earned a masters in pharmacy from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy in the U.S. Mr. Darwazah has held several pharmacy-related jobs until 1978 when he established Al-Hikmah, a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant, where he is chairman of the board and executive officer of Al-Hikmah Investment. He is married and has four children and 10 grandchildren.

Changes Expected To Improve Ties With Parliament

JN0501081595 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 Jan 95 p 1

["Analysis" by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The impending government change dominated conversations in the galleries of Parliament Wednesday though no mention of a new cabinet, expected in the coming few days, was made during the formal session of the Lower House.

Most deputies believed that Royal Court Chief Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir will form the new government and said that this would herald better relations between the legislative and the executive authorities, reflecting positively on the relationship which has probably seen less ups than downs since the appointment of the al- Majali government in May 1993.

Though the initial tension resulted from Dr. al-Majali's recommendation to the King to dissolve the 11th Parliament and his government's change of the Election Law against the will of most political parties and deputies, lawmakers saw the way in which Dr. al-Majali dealt with the House after its election as a direct reason for the sometimes tense relations between the two parties.

Deputies charge Dr. al-Majali, whose government won a simple majority in its vote of confidence from the House, has not shown enough regard for the House and cite as an example the way in which he introduced the second reshuffle to his government in June.

Though Dr. al-Majali then brought 10 lawmakers to the Cabinet, deputies criticised him for "failing to consult blocs" and attempting to divide them.

Dr. al-Majali repeatedly dismissed these charges, saying his government has respected the role of the House and worked to improve ties with it. But his assertions did little to change many deputies' views that Dr. al-Majali does not pay enough attention to the views of lawmakers.

Opposition deputies also accuse the government of suppressing their views, saying that the democratisation process has witnessed a visible decline since Dr. al-Majali took office.

Deputies opposed to the peace process charged that the government had sent the country back to the martial law era after the peace treaty was signed, denying them many of their constitutional rights to express their view on the peace process.

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But saying that Sharif Zayd's politics are predicated on maintaining consultations with the House and political powers, even the Islamists, whom many say Sharif Zayd's previous government was accused of appeasing, expect a warming up of legislative-executive relations if he takes the helm of the new government.

Sharif Zayd's government dismissed those charges at the time saying it followed policies of "inclusion" not appeasement.

Sources close to Sharif Zayd said that the power base of the Islamists at the House has in any way been reduced from 23 seats in addition to about 10 other supporters during Sharif Zayd's previous government to 17 seats plus less supporters in the current Parliament, and that will leave its mark on the policy the new government will adopt towards the Islamists.

Another element that observers quote as a factor that would help improve the government's relations with the opposition is its commitment that it will express its rejection of the peace treaty with Israel through legal and constitutional means.

IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour, however, was confident that Sharif Zayd will take the initiative to improve ties with the IAF's 17- member parliamentary bloc.

And observers say Sharif Zayd will succeed in doing that because the Islamists are more than interested in restoring good ties with the regime after a period of isolation that saw them lose much of their power in the House and possibly on the street as well.

Meanwhile, deputies confirmed that Sharif Zayd has not yet started consulting them on the formation of the new government but many said they trust he will do so once he starts choosing members of his cabinet.

But many deputies expected Sharif Zayd to consult with parliamentarians as individuals and not as members of blocs, adding that any deputies who would join the government would be chosen on their own merits and not as representatives of blocs.

Sources close to Sharif Zayd, however, said that he will make a concerted effort to consult with parliamentary blocks before announcing his third government.

Bin-Shakir Meets Brotherhood, Other Blocs

JN0801111795 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 8 Jan 95 pp 1, 13

[Report by Faysal al-Shubul]

[FBIS Translated Text] The most prominent of the recent developments concerning the formation of a new government was a meeting yesterday morning between al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the prime minister-designate, and the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood

At his request, Bin-Shakir met with 'Abd-al-Majid al-Dhunaybat, the Muslim Brotherhood's controller general; 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur, deputy controller general; and Dr. 'Adnan al-Jaljuli.

Immediately after the meeting, the Muslim Brotherhood's leadership and the Islamic Action Front [IAF] Party held a meeting. Al-Dhunaybat briefed them on the details of the meeting with al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir on the formation of a new cabinet.

Al-Dhunaybat said the prime minister-designate did not invite the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood and the IAF to take part in the cabinet. He briefed them on the current conditions that call for change, of which the formation of the new cabinet is a forerunner.

Muslim Brotherhood sources say al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir explained to the movement's delegation the domestic and external challenges facing the kingdom, noting economic hardships and the decline in public freedoms.

The sources added that the prime minister-designate stressed his determination to effect political reforms and boost the democratic march. They added that the Muslim Brotherhood's delegation clarified the movement's position on all the issues discussed, particularly economic issues and those related to public freedoms.

The sources noted that the Muslim Brotherhood, following the meeting, is fully convinced that their participation in the cabinet was out of the question and that it was unreasonable for their meeting with the prime minister-designate to be the occasion of an invitation to take part in the cabinet.

The sources said there has been an internal debate inside the Muslim Brotherhood's leadership about the position of the movement and the Islamic Action Front on the upcoming government and that positions ranged from principled opposition to opposition hinging on the cabinet's makeup and plans.

In another development, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has continued his consultations to form the new cabinet. Last night, he met with 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, 'Awad Khulayfat, Muhammad Dawudiyah, Nazih al- 'Ammarin, and Anwar al-Hadid, who represent a new parliamentary bloc comprising 19 deputies. He has also met with representatives of the National Action Front, which comprises 15 deputies. Bin-Shakir has also met with a number of independent deputies and personages, including Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti.

Furthermore, there were intensive parliamentary consultations in Parliament all day yesterday. Parliamentary blocs have adopted similar positions giving the prime minister-designate the right to select ministers from parliamentary blocs.

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Foreign Minister on Alexandria Summit, Other Issues

NC0501162095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Jan 95

[News conference by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz with unidentified correspondents at the Foreign Ministry in Beirut on 5 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Minister, what is your opinion of the Alexandria summit results, particularly the part that deals with Lebanon?

[Buwayz] Undoubtedly, the principle behind the Alexandria summit is to channel all efforts directly toward reactivating the unity of the Arab stance, even on the most elemental level. We believe that the agreements reached during these summits are capable of uniting ranks and restoring Arab credibility, despite the fact that I am one of those who believe that the Alexandria summit is no more than a humble beginning for such Arab action.

[Correspondent] There is a great argument going on about transferring the armed Palestinian men from the camps to the self- rule area. What is the Lebanese Government's actual stance on this matter?

[Buwayz] I believe that what is being said about this issue is exaggerating the actual problem. So far, I do not believe that there are any clear demands or requirements on this matter. As a matter of principle, the Lebanese Government does not oppose the transfer of the Palestinians to any place they wish to go to.

[Correspondent] Could we, Mr. Minister, claim that this is an official proposal? Could we claim that this is the Lebanese Government's official proposal?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese Government will not impose the removal or transfer of the Palestinians from Lebanon. However, we will not oppose any option the Palestinians might take regarding their move to any place in the world.

[Correspondent] Is there a French initiative on this matter that has been presented to you?

[Buwayz] I do not believe that there has been a programmed plan for this move.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday declared for the umpteenth time that he does not recognize UN Resolution 425. Within the same framework, Lebanese Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul yesterday announced that the Lebanese Government is ready to participate in the military coordination or military talks between Syria and Israel in Washington. This contradiction....

[Buwayz, interrupting] These are two different topics. First regarding Rabin's statement on Resolution 425, of course if he recognized the resolution there would be no problem. Therefore, it is nothing new for Israel to continue negotiating or playing smart on the subject of Resolution 425. When Israel recognizes Resolution 425, the problem will be solved. Regarding the defense minister's statement, I believe that he corrected his statement by saying that the security committee that will hold talks with an American committee has a specific, defined, and very clear objective. We announced this objective from the very beginning despite all the interpretations and suspicions we have heard voiced about this matter. I believe that his stance on this issue was clear.

Regarding Lebanon's participation in the negotiations, it has taken part in the talks from the very beginning. When there are new proposals, which we consider realistic and fruitful, we will then have no objections to resuming the negotiations in any way.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, when will the committee start its meetings to lift the boycott?

[Buwayz] I believe that the committee will start its meetings at the end of this month. At any rate, as far as I know, the American side has not appointed its members of the committee who will be negotiating with the Lebanese side.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] What is the truth about this issue? Has the U.S. ambassador been appointed?

[Buwayz] We cannot delve into the details of the internal activities of the U.S. Administration.

[Correspondent] Have you received any....

[Buwayz, interrupting] We will be officially informed about the appointment of an ambassador when the decision is made. So far, we have not been officially informed that an ambassador has been appointed for Lebanon. Of course, there is information surfacing that some reshuffling has been done. As a result, some names have been presented that the media have been reporting. However, officially we have not been informed about an appointment.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, what is your comment on the reactivation of the Arab League and [Arab League Secretary General] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's tour?

[Buwayz] Reactivating the Arab League is a demand we have made every time we have participated in the League's activities. We believe that this era in the history of the Arabs necessitates a bare minimum of cooperation, coordination, and harmony regarding the basic strategic options that are open to us. I believe that if it is impossible for us to restore Arab solidarity immediately to its highest levels, then there should be a possible and realistic standard that we should be attempting to achieve. I believe that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid—a competent, capable, and distinguished personality—can do this, even if on a limited scale. Asking the Arab League for complete solidarity and a unified stance is fanciful

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thinking at this time. However, it is much more realistic for us to make a number of down-to-earth proposals and prepare ourselves to meet the upcoming challenges, which no one is safe from or can face on their own. I believe this would constitute the basic minimum for reactivating the Arab League.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, we heard some talk today that you rule out holding an Arab summit next month, as Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid has stated.

[Buwayz] We encourage Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid in his efforts to convene an preparations. It should be preceded by various stages of meetings.

'Arafat Loyalists, Opponents Clash in Sidon Camp

NC0601183195 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amid reports about the prospective transfer of Palestinian personnel from Lebanon and some other Arab countries to beef up the Palestinian police force in the self-rule areas, a security incident occurred in Sidon's 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp this afternoon. It developed into a limited clash between pro-'Arafat and anti-'Arafat Fatah members. No casualties have been reported.

According to security sources, the incident occurred after 'Arafat loyalists carried portraits of the Palestinian leader and raised slogans in his support during a ceremony marking the anniversary of the founding of the Fatah Movement. This angered the supporters of Fatah dissident Munir al-Maqdah.

Influential people in the camp carried out good offices that restored the situation to normal. Palestinian fighters from Lebanon to boost the Palestinian police force in the self-rule area.

Al-Hariri Returns After Heart Surgery in U.S.

NC0701173695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Political activity resumes Monday [9 January] after the relaxing holidays and the absence of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who underwent successful heart surgery in the United States. With the return of Mr. al-Hariri to Beirut this afternoon, political activity is expected to resume with a Council of Ministers meeting to discuss current political and societal topics. The prime minister arrived at Beirut International Airport from the United States via Paris at 1720 today. [passage omitted]

Junblatt Opposes Security Delegation to U.S.

LD0601214895 Tehran IRNA in English 2046 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Jan. 6, IRNA—In a meeting with the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon Homayun 'Alizadeh at the Iranian Embassy here today, Lebanese minister state for refugee affairs, Walid Junblatt, discussed expansion of Tehran-Beirut bilateral relations.

Junblatt who is also leader of the Social Progressive Party [Progressive Socialist Party] (Druze) exchanged views on various topics such as relations between his party and the Islamic Republic of Iran, strategic cooperation among forces opposed to the American peace in the region such as Iran, Syria and the Islamic and nationalist groups of Lebanon.

He also voiced his opposition to the decision of the Lebanese Government to send a delegation to the U.S to dicuss security issues in Lebanon, and said the American pretexts regarding lack of safety in Lebanon particularly around Beirut Airport is because of the presence and influence of Hizballah forces. aim of confronting the Zionist aggression and they never believe in kidnappings, as the Americans allege.

Fadlallah: U.S. Wants To Eliminate Islamists

NC0601184795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that the United States is seeking to eliminate the Islamist presence in Beirut's southern suburb, incite the Lebanese public against the resistance movement, guarantee Israeli security in Lebanon, and separate the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks. He said it wants to do this through the Lebanese-U.S. Joint Security Committee.

Fadlallah said that the Lebanese and Syrians are a single nation with a joint destiny.

'Arafat Reportedly Says 400 'Gunmen' To Leave Country

NC0701085395 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An initial group of approximately 400 Palestinian gunmen will leave Lebanon shortly. This was stated by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in a taped telephone conversation that was broadcast in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp [near Sidon] yesterday on the anniversary of the Fatah movement. 'Arafat said the number of these gunmen was dictated by circumstances which are known to everyone. He promised the camp's inhabitants that there will be arrangements for their departure [for the Palestinian Authority areas] over the next three years. This move will also include the Palestinians who became refugees in 1948.

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Israel Said Preparing for 'Hostile Military Acts'

JN0801071295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Jan 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, AL-BA'TH says Israeli leaders are looking for pretexts to make peace in the region a neglected issue and to block the road to it. The paper continues: It is difficult for the leaders of Israel to understand the movement of history. Therefore, they persist with the same arrogance that made the entire world oppose Hitlerism. The Israeli leaders have distributed roles among themselves and shown malicious aggressive intentions. They are demanding peace without withdrawal from the occupied territories. They want regional security without pledging not to possess destructive nuclear weapons. Arabs cannot be asked to implement UN resolutions and international initiatives as long as Israel rejects any compliance with those resolutions and initiatives.

The paper says Israeli moves indicate it is preparing for hostile military acts in some areas in the Middle East to promote a pretext for circumventing even the agreements that it has signed.

The paper indicates that the impasse affecting the entire region will turn into a disaster due to the malicious, Nazi course followed by the generals of Israel against the Arabs and due to their failure to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

Peace Seen as Acceptable If All Muslims Agree

MM0601181195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jan 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Damascus: Shaykh al-Buti Stresses Peace Permissible If Rulers Agree and Rights Are Recovered"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—A senior Syrian religious authority has stressed the permissibility of the establishment of peace between the Arabs and Israel and the need for it to be comprehensive and to be agreed upon by the rulers of the Islamic states and also just—a just peace that restores the rights, namely "southern Lebanon and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights." He prayed to God to "spare Syria an agreement similar to the Israeli-Jordanian agreement." And to "spare us what has afflicted Jordan."

Dr. Muhammad Sa'id Ramadan al-Buti, who presents a weekly program on Syrian television, said that "the peace that the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, concluded between polytheists and Muslims in Mecca was limited to a period of time and was qualified, pointing out that there are two cases for establishing peace between Muslims and non-Muslims: The first is when the enemy is living on his territory and a war breaks out between him and the Muslims and the ruler of the Muslims wants to establish peace. This is permissible if it is a temporary peace. The second is when the enemies storm the Muslims' land and occupy part of it. This case applies to Israel. The peace is permissible here under two conditions: The first is that the usurpation ends, the owners' rights are restored, and the usurpers move out of the home of Islam to their land. That is, that the rights to be restored to their owners. The second is that the peace includes the agreement of the Muslims' rulers if they are numerous, and is agreed by them all.

"That is what the prophet, God's prayers and blessings be upon him, said in the document which is regarded as a constitution when he settled in Medina. He said: The peace of Muslims is one. There can be no peace for one Muslim without other Muslims except where there is agreement among them. In other words, no head of state is allowed to conclude peace with Israel except with the agreement of all leaders, because if such a peace were concluded it would be a factor that would turn Muslims against Muslims, because whoever concludes peace becomes a friend [of Israel] while those who do not remain its enemies."

In a lesson he delivered in Damascus Al-Buti said: "To avoid hostility among Muslims, the prophet, may God's prayers and blessings be upon him, declared that peace must indeed be comprehensive, meaning that all rulers must agree to conclude it, but we should not forget the first condition, which is that the enemy should take his hands off our property (...) [ellipsis as published]. Palestine is not only for the Palestinians. Every Islamic home belongs to the Muslims, and they could not forfeit it to the enemies of Islam even if they wanted to." He added: "If these two conditions were fulfilled, then peace would be welcomed. Here we recall the words of Almighty God: If they seek peace then so should you." Al-Buti asked: "Why does Israel not address the Arab League, may God have mercy on it, as a representative of the Muslims?" He replied: "Because Israel wants to talk with to one group to the exclusion of others to obtain concessions from it, but the prophet warned us against that." He added that a number of Islamic states "concluded deals with Israel because they were determined to do so (...) [ellipsis as published], but they suffered no religious fatwa for doing so."

Addressing the audience on the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, he said: "Just look at the tourist groups where girls offer themselves to young men. That is peace without controls." He emphasized that the Muslims "are advocates of peace and our religion is a religion of peace, but it must be just." He pointed out that some people "imagined that Syria would be the first to sign a peace agreement until we reached a day when we found Syria's position to be, regrettably, the one position closest to Islam." He beseeched God "not to afflict us with what has afflicted Jordan. Syria is the only state taking a position closest to peace, whereby the restoration of rights means at least the restoration of southern Lebanon" and Syria's occupied "Heights." He added: We are

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for the Koran, and a ruler is welcome when he is in agreement with the Koran, but when when there is disagreement, then we opt for the Koran.

Israel Seen Pressuring Government, Extorting Lebanon

JN0601082295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 6 Jan 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH discusses Israel's constant aggressions against southern Lebanon. It says: While it pushes the peace process into a dilemma and a stalemate, Israel escalates little by little its attacks against southern Lebanon and its peaceful towns and villages. It also escalates its threats against the innocent civilians in a ceaseless attempt to extort Lebanon, pressure Syria, and divert the world from concentrating on its intransigent positions which, so far, have prevented the opening of doors to a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Israel is still acting as an aggressive force, adhering to its occupation of Arab territory, and barricading itself behind positions of arrogance and hegemony.

The paper says: The savage daily bombardments carried out by the Israeli troops, the increasing military deployments, and the threats of aggression indicate Israel's disdain for the UN Security Council resolutions. Israel is evading these resolutions and is even trying to annul all resolutions that condemn Israel and its aggressive conduct. It also keeps trying to bypass Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, on which the peace process is based.

The paper feels that dismissing the UN resolutions, the flagrant rejection of the principles of peace, and the disdain displayed toward these principles and the efforts of the U.S. sponsor exacerbate things in the south and push matters there in the direction of open war.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The only way to escape this whirlpool is to restore credit to the principles of the peace process and put an end to Israel's arrogance and terminate the state of aggression. This brings to mind the role of the U.S. sponsor as a full partner who insists that he plans to continue working for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace. Credibility and responsibility are both indivisible wholes.

Al-Shar' Receives UN Envoy, Invitation for al-Asad

JN0801143595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received 'Ali 'Utayqah, special envoy of the UN secretary general, who handed him a letter for President Hafiz al-Asad from UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus- Ghali to attend the Copenhagen world summit conference on social development scheduled for March in accordance with a UN General Assembly resolution issued in 1992.

The meeting was attended by Hani Habib, director of the Economic Department of the Foreign Ministry.

Talks centered on social development issues on both the national and international levels in light of the political changes in the world. They also stressed the need for developing countries to contribute to these issues, coordinate their efforts, and protect their interests at the Copenhagen world summit conference on social development.

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Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Seeks Elected Government After Power Transfer

LD0801154695 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [passage indistinct] Brother Hekmatyar went to (?Beshsud) district [in Nangrahar] and took part in the opening ceremony of a grand mosque in Banaghar village. After the opening of the grand mosque, brother Hekmatyar spoke about the importance of mosques and the worship ceremonies by the Muslims in his scholarly and valuable speech to the people. The report adds: Later the amir of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan [Islamic Party] and leader of the Islamic Revolution furnished those present at the prayers with information about the recent affairs of the country. In a section of his speech he said: We want an all out peace and an elected Islamic government. If the coalition administration will respect the will of the people and will act honestly, we are ready for any kind of cooperation and assistance with them.

Brother Hekmatyar added: As a first step, an interim government which is acceptable to all involved sides shall be formed. Then this interim government shall prepare ground for the holding of general and free elections in order that through this an elected Islamic government shall be established in our beloved country. Similarly brother Hekmatyar explained the characteristics of a Muslim amir. He said: A Muslim amir is a trustworthy person who rules in keeping with the will of a nation.

Rabbani: Crisis is 'Not a Power Struggle'

LD0601202895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a news conference held today, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], explained the ISA's stance on the current issues. He said: Our position is clear, we always want peace and security in the country and we do not insist on staying in power by force. We have already said that a rational mechanism is to be worked out which is acceptable to all, by which power can be transferred.

In connection with his participation in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] conference, our country's esteemed president added: The Islamic countries want peace and stability in Afghanistan and they are ready to take part in the reconstruction of our country. As Afghanistan's membership in this conference was suspended for 15 years, the resumption of Afghanistan's delegation's participation in this conference indicates the strengthening of the ISA's international relations and shows the ICO's support for Afghanistan.

Regarding the resolution of Afghanistan's problems, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani said: The government of the ISA has said time and again that all the country's issues must be resolved by talks and understanding. Once again we say that we want to resolve Afghanistan's issues by talks and understanding without foreign interference. All issues must be resolved inside Afghanistan by the Afghans themselves. Those who want to resolve Afghanistan's issues by fighting and armed force, surely they have made a mistake. Fighting cannot find a solution for problems but make them more complicated.

The esteemed president added: Those who regarded themselves as neutral and non-partisan in the fighting, they were not neutral. They should have perceived their historic responsibility and should have come out in defense of justice. Our country's current crisis is not an internal crisis or a power struggle. It is not a power struggle, but the country's current situation is the result of those objectives which have been dragged inside our country from outside our borders. Hence, prevention of foreign interference can resolve the issues in our country. He added: Respecting treaties and the people's will as well as ending foreign interference can resolve Afghanistan's problems.

Regarding previous unsuccessful peace efforts, our president said: This issue is up to our Muslim nation to judge which side has broken the agreements and did not respect them. Regarding the United Nations' endeavors to find a solution for the Afghan issue, the esteemed president said: We prefer that all issues be solved inside Afghanistan by Afghans themselves. Keeping in mind this principle, of course, the UN efforts will also reach a conclusion.

Replying to a question noting that the opposition side had started fighting in the past under the pretext of militias [Dostam's militiamen] being present [in Kabul], whereas now the militias are on his [Golboddin Hekmatyar's] side, our president said: The ISA does not recognize the militias. The issues must be resolved by the jihadi formations.

Regarding the arrival of Taleban [religious students controlling areas in the south], esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani said: We pay respect to the Taleban's actions. They are making self-initiated efforts on the basis of Islamic beliefs. They do not yet have any links with foreign states. However, the foreign states may perhaps want to have links with them. We are ready to extend Islamic assistance and cooperation to them.

Clashes Among Golboddin's Militiamen in Lowgar

LD0701174895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] More clashes have flared up among the militiamen belonging to Golboddin Hekmatyar in the capital of Lowgar Province.

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Reports coming from Lowgar Province say that the fighting flared up in the capital of Lowgar Province when the militiamen attached to Zardad fired at a car belonging to Ehsanollah, the governor chosen by Golboddin for Lowgar Province. Although Ehsanollah was not in the car himself, his brother and two other passengers were killed.

The report says that the recent clashes in Lowgar have left five killed and a number injured. The report adds that clashes also flared up in Mohammad Agha district among Golboddin's militiamen. The governor of Mohammad Agha district has fled the area and Zardad has appointed another person named Hanif as district governor.

18 Casualties in Raids by CIS Aircraft

LD0701170095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The command of the 12th border regiment of Darwaz district, Badakhshan Province, has reported to the BAKHTAR Information Agency that CIS bomber aircraft bombarded residential areas of Mayni, Darwaz district, on 12 and 13 Jadi [2 and 3 January]. As a result of this bombardment 10 people were martyred and another eight people were injured. Six of those martyred belonging to the same family. Nine residential houses were destroyed and 150 livestock animals were also killed in the course of this bombardment.

First Red Cross Food Convoy Arrives in Kabul

BK0801142595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1353 GMT 8 Jan 95

[Report by Terence White]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Jan 8 (AFP)—A convoy of trucks from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) carrying 120 tonnes of mixed food supplies, the first such delivery of 1995, arrived in Kabul Sunday [8 January] afternoon.

"This food will be distributed to the displaced persons of Kabul living in public places," Red Cross Relief Coordinator Reto Neuenschwander told AFP.

The ten-truck convoy arrived in Kabul from the eastern provincial capital Jalalabad carrying wheat-flour, cooking oil, rice, beans, salt, sugar and tea, the Red Cross spokesman said.

Although this was only the second Red Cross food-aid convoy to reach Kabul in the past six months, Neuenschwander was confident that supplies would increase to help cope with the harshness of the winter period.

"We are optimistic that in the future we will send food convoys to Kabul on a weekly basis," he said.

He added that the food would be distributed to some 20,000 Afghans who have been forced to flee their homes due to factional fighting in Kabul and either cannot afford to rent alternative accommodation or have no relatives to stay with.

He said the displaced families—which number roughly 3,000—live in public places, mostly schools.

Describing the "joint-approach to tackle the problems of the winter needy," Neuenschwander said the Red Cross was working with other foreign-based relief agencies in Kabul.

He said the problem of heating and cooking was being addressed by a joint ICRC-Solidarite program under which the Red Cross would buy charcoal on the local market for use in stoves provided by Solidarite.

A welfare project run by Care employs 1200 war-widows to produce quilts, which are then purchased by the ICRC and donated to the displaced, two per family.

As beneficial as these aid programs are, most relief agencies admit that they still only reach a small percentage of the needy among Kabul's estimated 800,000 population, half of whom have been forced to flee their homes by the 30-month long factional fighting.

In other words, half of the population needs support of one form or another but because most have been able to find alternative accommodation they do not qualify for aid.

Meanwhile Kabul remained calm as the de facto ceasefire held between factions fighting for and against Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, who did not step down when his 2-year term of office expired on December 28.

Iran

Combined Naval Forces Exercise Begins in Gulf

LD0801131195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Combined exercises of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps [IRGC] naval forces codenamed: Abkavan-73 [Water-Searchers-73] began in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf today. Frogmen from the Army's second naval region are participating in the exercises.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] The aim of the five-day exercises in northern waters of the Persian Gulf is to advance the participating units' skills and operational capabilities.

The combined exercises of the frogmen of the Army's second region and the IRGC will be conducted in six stages, and participating frogmen will use battleships, personnel carriers, and helicopters to perform the following tasks: diving from helicopters; rapid rescue of frogmen by boats and helicopters; boarding personnel

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carriers; floating of submerged materials; rescue and lifesaving operations; underwater welding; shore attack against vessels; and identification, destruction and controlled-explosion of mines on the sea bed. This is the Central News Unit in Bushehr [end recording]

UN Mission Denies TIMES Nuclear Build-up Allegations

LD0701144395 Tehran IRNA in English 1302 GMT 7 jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, Jan. 7, IRNA—Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations regretted the NEW YORK TIMES article of 5 January on alleged Iranian nuclear weapon program and the remarks of the U.S. defence secretary, William Perry, in this connection. It said the report was "a dramatic, though not unusual, distortion of facts about Iran."

The mission said in a press release Friday night that "according to some shadowy American and Israeli officials, the NEW YORK TIMES reported on January 5, that 'Iran may be able to build an atomic bomb in 5 years.' On the same day, the top American defense official, Secretary Perry called the report a dramatic oversimplification of a complex problem and supposedly corrected the figure, that is, making a home-grown bomb will take the Iranians much more than five years."

It said that "those American and Israeli officials who used the TIMES to sublimate their mischieveous political agenda know very well that Iran does not, and will not, in light of its own national interest, engage in a nuclear weapon program. Therefore, the 5 years of the unidentified American and Israeli officials and the "much more than five years" of Secretary Perry are all irrelevant in reality."

Pointing to the persistant and ruthless propaganda against Iran, particularly those related to an allegaed Iranian military buildup and nuclear weapon program, it remarked that "the vilification of Iran and creation of a big enemy out of Iran which poses a major threat not only in the area but in the larger region continues to find its way into and pervade major Western media. The aim, of course, is to exacerbate the climate of distrust and tension in order to milk those considered friendly and intimidate others."

On an Israeli threat to attack peaceful Iranian nuclear facilities, it said that the time of such claims was over and stressed that Israel was dead wrong in making such claims if it thought it had the capability to carry out its threats with no fear of reprisal.

"Unlike Israel which persistantly refuses, Iran is an original signatory of Nuclear Weapons Non-proliferation Treaty. Iran also has a full scope safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)."

The press release reiterated that "Iran simply does not have the ambitions to become a nuclear weapon state and as a matter of national policy it has denounced nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction."

Referring to Iran's initiative in 1574 [year as received] when an item entitled establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the region of the Middle East was included in the agenda of the United Nations General Assembly, it pointed out that Iran had played a significant role in advancing this concept in the annual deliberations of the United Nations General Assembly.

"Routine as well as unannounced inspection of Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities by the IAEA of which the latest was carried out between 15 and 21 Novemeber 1993 confirmed that Iran was in full compliance with NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] and IAEA's safeguard agreement," it concluded.

Russia's Mikhaylov Discusses Bushehr Project

Mikhaylov Hopes To Sign Contract

LD0601184695 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 6, IRNA—Russian Minister of Atomic Energy, Mr. [Viktor Nikitovich] Mikhaylov, arrived here on Thursday [5 January] to conclude a contract on completion and putting into operation of the Bushehr Atomic Energy Plant project.

The Russian minister, who is on his third visit to Iran, referred to the outcomes of his earlier talks and expressed hope that the contract would be concluded in the next couple of days with the Islamic Republic Atomic Energy Organization.

Vice-president and head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization Reza Amrollahi said the project was to be implemented as a joint venture between Iran and Russia. He expressed hope that the contract would be signed in this round of talks with the Russian officials.

Russia To Complete Plant in 4 Years

LD0701203295 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in Persian 1915 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Khabir, the deputy director of the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant in Iran, says the center will soon be put into operation with Russian assistance. Speaking at an interview with reporters on a tour to the plant, the Iranian official said: 90 percent of the construction work and 60 percent of equipment and machinery installation at the plant's first unit, with a capacity of 1,300 megawatts were completed by the German contractor before the Islamic revolution's victory. He also revealed that the Germans had completed 50 percent of the construction for the second unit when

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the contractor defaulted on the terms of the contract for the center, which is designed exclusively for power generation.

Mr. Khabir then said: The Iranian side entered into an accord with Russia worth $800 million to complete the project and Moscow agreed to complete the first unit of the nuclear power plant within four years. He disclosed that about 40 Iranian companies are also involved in the project.

Officials Sign Contract

LD0801201795 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1900 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to make proper and peaceful use of atomic energy and provide part of the country's required electricity, a contract to complete Bushehr Atomic Energy Station was signed tonight by the head of our country's Atomic Energy Agency and Russia's minister of atomic energy. On the basis of this contract, the Russian Government has committed itself to complete and launch Bushehr Atomic Energy Station with the participation and cooperation of Iranian experts within the next four years.

In an interview with our correspondent, Reza Amrollahi, vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Agency, said that the capacity of the first phase of the Busher Atomic Energy Station is 1,000 megawatts with an investment of $10 billion. He added: The effective life of this station is 40 years, and the power it produces will be cheaper than that produced in the thermal power stations, which work with fossil fuel.

Mr. Amrollahi added: The implementation work of the second phase of Bushehr Atomic Energy Station will begin after the completion of the first phase.

Daily Describes Atomic Energy as 'Much Needed'

LD0901115595 Tehran IRNA in English 0906 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—The deal between Iran and Russia on atomic cooperation promises to provide the country with the much needed atomic energy to speed up Iran's development, said a morning daily here Monday [9 January].

Referring to the fate of Bushehr power plant as the heart of the deal and center of intense dispute between the Iranian authorities and Germany's Siemens company, TEHRAN TIMES said, "while there are hundreds of such power plants in the West, the western powers have repeatedly tried to deny Iran the right to have its power plant. It was natural that Iran would turn to Russia to finish the construction of the power plant in Bushehr."

The editorial pointed to the charges repeatedly levelled against Iran by the U.S. and the Zionist regime on Iran's plan to produce atomic weapons and noted that as a victim of chemical weapons produced by the West, Iran has never had, and will never have, the intention, nor the program, to build or procure weapons of mass destruction.

Iran is a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferatiion treaty, the daily said, adding that it always abided by its regulations like other countries in the world except the Zionist regime and the U.S. "It is no surprise to see the Zionist regime so active in pointing to Iran as the culprit in the region. Not being a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, the Zionist regime has tried to keep the international observers away from its nuclear installations that are shrouded in mystery," said the editorial.

No doubt, it stressed, the Zionist regime has been involved in the production of weapons of mass destruction, were it not so, it would have readily allowed the relevant international bodies to inspect its nuclear installations.

The article concluded by saying that the charge by the Zionist regime that Iran is aiming to manufacture nuclear weapons serves as a smoke screen to stop the world from asking the unanswered questions: "When will Israel be made to account for its nuclear installations? When will it be made to answer to the world's conscience?"

Russia Said Ready To Accept Aid for Chechnya

LD0801144295 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 8 Jan (IRNA)—Following Iran's proposal to mediate in the Chechnya crisis, Russia has voiced readiness to accept Iran's humanitarian assistance to the Muslim people of Chechnya.

The speaker of Iranian Majlis 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri had said in a meeting with Georgian parliament vice-speaker last Wednesday [4 January] that Iran was ready to dispatch a delegation to mediate between the warring sides in Chechnya.

An informed source told IRNA Sunday that the Russian ambassador to Tehran had expressed his country's readiness to receive Iranian humanitarian aid to the people of Chechnya.

He added that Russia had made the decision to accept Iran's aid after Iran proposed to mediate in the conflict.

The same source noted that Russia had refused the meditation proposals offered even by members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Official on 'Readiness' To Help Solve Chechen Crisis

LD0801135695 Tehran IRNA in English 1254 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 8 Jan (IRNA)—Iran today voiced readiness to launch efforts for the peaceful

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settlement of the tragic crisis in Chechnya and prevent further bloodshed and escalation of the war.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi told IRNA in an interview that "Iran is opposed to military operation and loss of life in Chechnya and wants its neighbour, Russia, to refrain from military action and resort to peaceful ways."

Mohammadi categorically denied a Russian claim that Iranian volunteers were being trained to be despatched to Chechnya.

"Iran is not involved in that region's issues," Mohammadi stressed.

"However," he noted, "our ideological duty requires us to sympathize with the bereaved Chechen families."

Asked to comment on the recent remarks by the Zionist regime's foreign minister, Shim'on Peres, who has said that "fear of Israel's nuclear potential is a deterrent factor especially against Iran," Mohammadi said the zionist regime itself was a serious threat against peace and security in the Middle East region.

He further added that the aggressor Zionist regime regardless of its nuclear capability and enjoying the unjust support of Washington, has accepted none of the inspection systems of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and is pursuing its efforts to obtain nuclear weapons."

Reiterating Tehran's opposition to any proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons, he said, "we support the Middle East as a zone free of any kind of mass destruction weapons, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons."

He called on the regional countries to take seriously Israels' nuclear potentials and use their diplomacy in a way to force the Zionist regime to destroy the nuclear weapons it has kept in its arsenals.

The spokesman also rejected remarks by deputy secretary general of the Arab League who has found the opening of a courthouse in Abu Musa Island to be in contradiction with good neighborliness and friendly relations.

He said that the inhabitants of Abu Musa Island are in need of judicial services as they required educational and health facilities and that the court branch has been opened there in compliance with the inhabitants' repeated demands.

He also stressed that there is no contradiction between exerting its national sovereignty by the Islamic Republic of Iran and its good neighbourliness and friendly ties with its neigbours.

Jannati Second Sermon on Chechnya, Anti-Profiteering

LD0601181295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1152 GMT 6 Jan 95

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in Tehran on 6 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Look what is happening in Bihac of Bosnia-Herzegovina today. The people are completely encircled. There is no way of bringing foodstuffs and medicine to the city. We are not talking about supplying arms and ammunition to these people, but they need some essential items to survive. How are they managing in the cold winter? Atrocities are committed there and no one is objecting.

On the other side, in the eastern region, the oppressed Muslim people of Chechnya are struggling under the enemy's artillery shells and aerial bombing. They are hit from every direction. They have formally waged an urban war with house-to-house fighting. The inhabitants are putting up a heroic resistance. And from the other corner of the world, the United States praises them [the Russians] to carry on, saying: You are doing well, go on; we did the same.

Had it been Iran committing a thousandth of these atrocities, they [the West] would have raised the roof with their hue and cry. They would have created a sensation in the world by saying: O human rights are violated, the people have no freedom and the blood of innocent people is being shed; they would have taken pictures and made films of the people, chickens, sheep and any heart-rending scenes, which they would have wished to exploit. They did the same in the Iraqi war against Kuwait. You saw what a sensation they created then. But now in Chechnya, the people are being killed in their thousands and they are showing the green light. They even praise [the aggressor] and give heart-warming support by saying: Rest assured that you are doing well; we would have done the same in your shoes. [passage omitted]

Another issue which I would like to refer to is the anti-profiteering campaign which is currently under way. If a person is sincere at the bottom of his heart, then he should try to achieve something. There are those who always want to throw a spanner in the works. Those will always do that, regardless of what others do. But if that does not happen, and the intention is to serve the people, and the slogans which are chanted are honest and sincere, then, when a positive work is under way, which serves the interests of the people, everyone should help. This task [the anti-profiteering campaign] needs public support. The Judiciary should follow up the matter powerfully.

One of our friends who works with the Judiciary was saying that they have arrested a number of influential

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persons, and now they are receiving telephone calls from here and there. I told him that he should strongly defend his position. I asked him to tell the following to those who keep ringing him: Either I will remain [in my post] and work and make my own decisions, or I will say goodbye.

One cannot work like that—such that when an influential person is arrested one is forced to release him and arrest only the ones who have no connections. One cannot work like that. God be praised he had such spirit.

Very well, the Judicial Power should cooperate and it should stop strings being pulled. They should not waste their time with small cases such as the local shop, even though those may also engage in profiteering, but they cannot deal with every case. They should deal with the big ones, with the main dealers and production companies.

Unfortunately a number of our government-owned companies are playing a role in this, that is they engage in profiteering. Those are the ones who should be dealt with. Those are the ones that fingers should point toward. Theree should be an investigation into how much producers have spent on their products. The issue should be properly investigated to discern how much has been spent and how much should be set aside as a fair profit. No one should be allowed to overcharge.

People should help and inform [on profiteers]. They [officials] have dealt with some, but not all, of the information provided. We should not expect them to deal with these matters as soon as we provide them with some information. They have a lot to do and they are dealing with them. But people should help and in particular inform on the big ones. [passage omitted]

Another point is that those involved in production should really try to increase productivity. They should produce with all their capacity. This is needed now. If our production falls short we have to import from abroad and to maintain the market from high prices. Well, this will not do. How far can we supply foreign currency to deal with the shortages? But we can produce ourselves. Imports must be made at the level of extreme need where there is no choice and where failure to import would create havoc in the country. Here we should import. But importing more is a sin and we should prevent it.

The middlemen too should be contented. They should be just. Someone has produced the good and has given it to you to sell. You should be content with the minimum. Ask God for your daily bread. Don't eat your daily bread through exploiting people. Don't eat your bread through breaking people's hearts. Those buying from you are your brothers and sisters. They are the families of martyrs, they are the deprived, and they are the target for the comprehensive attacks of the enemy. Now if there is something, we should share it. Why should we be unjust? [passage omitted]

Now my final comment. I have been informed of some bad news and I don't want to inform you about it but the the news will spread. I also have to express my condolences. I have been informed that a small Air Force airplane, coming to Tehran from Esfahan was beset by mechanical difficulties and was forced to return but crashed in Esfahan. A number of dear individuals, whom we respected, have been lost. A total of 12 people. Six crew members and six others. One of them was the dear air force chief, his excellency General Sattari and some of his deputies. They were the brave men of the war who provided much service, respect, and honor. They are now lost. I express condolences to the esteemed leader, the commander in chief, and to the dear Air Force as well as the other armed forces. [passage omitted]

Jannati Sermon Wants Marja' in Step With Leadership

LD0601173895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 6 Jan 95

[First Friday sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati in Tehran on 6 January—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

My discussions [in previous sermons] has been about [religious] emulation [taqlid]. I think that there are some more points which I need to make. When certain occasions arise, then essentially these debates have to be made, because people have queries about these on a day to day basis. I have already [in previous sermons] said what I had to say about determining the duties of the emulators. There are, however, a few other points which I need to stress and I advise you to pay attention to these.

As I said before, praise be to God, several individuals who meet the conditions for marja'iyat [state of being a source of emulation] are present among us, and our religious seminaries have trained many of these scientific and religious personalities. [passage omitted]

However, if we have for instance 100 people who satisfy all the conditions for marja'iyat, and if every four or five individuals set out to emulate each of these, and if in other words, the arena of marja'iyat becomes divided [tajziyeh] and disaggregated [tafkik], this will really harm Islam, even though we cannot say to an emulator who has selected a certain gentleman as someone who meets all the conditions, that your emulation is wrong and void.

This is because marja'iyat is a power. It is the power which can on the one hand resolve problems inside the country and mobilize the people when there is an urgent need for some necessary tasks to be accomplished, and on the other hand it can also act as a power which is able to frighten the enemy. Ever since our sources of emulation, such as the late Mirza Shirazi [19th century religious leader who issued a fatwa banning the use of

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tobacco because of the involvement of foreign powers in its trade], entered the political arena, the enemy sensed that there was this kind of power in Iran, and each time the enemy heard some cry of protest from a marja' [source], then it essentially came to its senses and took the cry seriously.

This is a unique power; that is to say a power which emanates from the ideas of the people and their love, faith, and divine enthusiasm. A power which is a substitute for the power of the Prophet and imams. If we then approach this power in such a way, and if we divide it in the manner that it becomes partitioned into five, ten, twenty, or thirty parts, then it will be clear what consequences will arise, and what a weakness will be created and what problems will be created for Islamic societies, and finally what a great obstacle will be removed from the path of the enemy.

I would like anybody who hears my voice to think on it, to study it. Now, some are not interested in such matters—they have no power of discernment, no ability to distinguish. Well, they always follow. They follow those who have the power to discern. I am addressing those for whom these issues are easily understood.

This might be detrimental to the extent of dismembering the country. Why do countries strongly believe that not even one inch of their territory should be dismembered and fall under the enemy's occupation? It is because every inch [that is taken away] will proportionately detract from the power of the state and bring about weakness in the state. This power [marja'iyat] is no less a power than that one [the power of the state]. I told you, it is a religious power, it is a divine power. Why should we break it up? Why should we divide and fragment it in this way?

If we look at the issue from this point of view we gain a new insight. These are issues which do not appear in [religious] references. [passage omitted]

The philosophy of that is quite clear. The dreadful things done by tyrannic powers to our seminaries, religious scholars, and jurisconsults resulted in this [state of affairs]. The isolation which beset them brought about that situation. In the era of revolution, when the revolution is working and bringing about change, all these things must be influenced by the revolution. The revolution is an extensive Islamic one; and it must make more impact especially in these dimensions which have a more essential and basic aspect.

Which is the stratum of the community whose development and correspondence with the revolution and the genuine Islamic principles play such a role in the future of the people, in determining the fate of the community to such an extent? Which stratum? The university stratum, with all its importance? And we must give it its due and it should understand its own position and take due stance on issues. But the cleric stratum is not comparable with any other, particularly at the marja'iyat level. I specially ask dear seminarian novices, scholars, and seminaries to pay heed to such points. I direct my remarks first to them.

Our first obligation is to safeguard Islam. Everything is for that. If the honor of Islam, the power of Islam is safeguarded everything else will be made all right. [passage omitted]

I do not think what I say cannot be understood by anyone. This is two and two put together, which make four. Therefore without wishing to—or even being able to—propose an individual, I make a general recommendation which any [religious] emulator must have in front of his eyes. This generality is that while we do not wish to ban anyone from being emulated, for the sake of safeguarding the power of Islam, for the sake of preventing the division of power, a person in whose marja'iyat the power of Islam can be guaranteed should be emulated. That mean he must be in step with the revolution. That means he must be in step with the leadership. That means he must move with the people. That means on the day when all the people are aroused he becomes aroused as well more than the others. And he must arouse the people where necessary. When they cry out, he should cry out louder. At election time, for instance...These are small examples. When election time comes and he wishes the fate of the community to be determined and the unparalleled role of the Majles be delineated there, he must be the one to guide the people as to what they should do. Put a clear path in front of the people through his guidance instead of sitting there saying let the people themselves choose and if I fancy I'll cast a vote as well. That is not the way! This is where the future of the state must be determined. Every vote will affect that future proportionate to itself. The people need to be guided. Who is to guide them? Who better than the marja'?

The people trust the source of emulation to be in charge of their religion. Thanks to a fatwa [decree] of the source of emulation, a man's wife might become lawful or unlawful to him. They place their assets and lives in the hand of the source of emulation. The source of emulation is, therefore, the most eligible person to direct the people. He can tell the people what to do, albeit on general matters. There is no need for him to be involved in personal matters of individuals. However, he can offer guidance and instructions and the people can find their way. It will be the same as a torch throwing light for the people to find their way. After that it would be up to the people to see and avoid potholes on the road. This is the duty of a scholar. He should be like a floodlight. This is one example.

There might be other such occasions such as 22 Bahman [revolution anniversary on 11 February]. On such a day a general maneuver and a referendum is held against the enemy. On such a day Islam demonstrates its might against blasphemy. Who better [than the source of emulation] to invite the people to attend a rally on such a day? When we expect the source of emulation to issue a

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fatwa on what is an obligatory or a recommended [religious instruction], why should he not express an opinion on the 22 Bahman rally? Is this rally any less important than some obligatory or recommended [?instruction] [passage omitted]

A scholar cannot remain indifferent to the issues of the day. This is a lengthy subject, which I will discuss in the coming weeks. Once again at this point I wish to stress that all our organs, including the seminaries, must be in harmony with this revolution. Of course, praise be to God, there has been much transformation. May God bless our dear imam's [Khomeyni's] soul and may he be granted the same status as the saints who were born in this month. Yes there has been a great transformation, but there is a long way to go before we reach the ideal point. [passage omitted]

Tehran Hosts ECO Regional Planning Council Session

LD0701145095 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA—The fifth session of the Regional Planning Council of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) convened here Saturday [7 January] with an address by First Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Hashemi.

During the five-day meeting, deputy economic ministers of ECO member states, while evaluating performance of the organization in the past year, are to formulate new planning for fostering economic cooperation in 1995.

Addressing the participants, Hashemi laid emphasis on prospects for regional cooperation and said ample grounds are available for cooperation among ECO member states in different areas.

He further underlied the need for proper planning as well as constant efforts by ECO member states to achieve the organization's goals.

Hashemi also said that formulation of regulations and by-laws concerning establishment and registration of ECO navigation and airlines companies were among other achievements of the organization during the last year, adding that the two joint companies are to start work before the convention of the third meeting of ECO heads of state.

Referring to the holding of about 40 meetings within the framework of ECO, Hashemi described such gatherings as positive steps in gaining objectives of the organization.

He felt assured that member delegations, taking into account the need for regional cooperation with regard to ECO priorities, can plan in a way that grounds would be prepared for implementation of futrure projects.

Hashemi stressed that Iran is ready to render any type of cooperation with ECO and wished ever-increasing success for the organization.

Envoy to Norway Recalled Over Rushdie Fatwa Remark

LD0801164295 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1545 GMT 8 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran recalled its ambassador in Norway, because he hinted that Iran might lift the fatwa against the writer Salman Rushdie, an Iranian weekly writes. In a letter to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, the diplomat wrote that his government's policy concerning the fatwa against Rushdie may change.

Hashemi Interviewed About Upcoming Talks in Kuwait

LD0901095395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0604 GMT 9 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, 9 Jan (KUNA)—The under-secretary at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Mohammad Hashemi, left this morning for the State of Kuwait leading a high-ranking delegation on a three-day official visit during which he is to hold talks with Kuwaiti top officials.

In an exclusive statement to KUNA before his departure, Hashemi said that his visit to Kuwait was at an official invitation from his Kuwaiti counterpart Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and came within the framework of the regular meetings between the foreign under- secretaries of the two countries so as to review all the aspects of bilateral relations and developments on the Gulf arena.

Hashemi pointed out that the State of Kuwait was one of the important and principal states in the Gulf region and that the visit reflected the interest of the Tehran government in consolidating is relations with its neighbor Kuwait, which he described as historically strong.

He said that the Kuwaiti-Iranian relations witnessed a noticeable development since the liberation as a natural result of Tehran's stance which opposed the Iraqi occupation and supported the return of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

Hashemi stressed the importance of exchanging visits between the high-ranking officials of the states of the region so as to protect the strategic relations between theses states in which neighborliness and understanding prevail, a matter which would benefit the peoples of the states of the region.

Hashemi expressed his belief that understanding between Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Iraq will remove tension from the region; however, the Iraqi regime, he said, should respect the principles of good neighborliness, abandon its aggressive policies and abide by all international resolutions.

About his country's relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Hashemi made it clear that Iran seeks to establish good strategic relations with all member-states of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] including Saudi

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Arabia and to remove all causes of coolness in its relations with some GCC states.

The delegation accompanying Hashemi includes the Director General of the Arabian Gulf Department in the Iranian Foreign Ministry Dr. Hoseyn Sadeqi and his assistant Mohammad Hoseyn Mala'ik.

They were seen off at Mahabad international airport by the ambassador of the State of Kuwait in Tehran, 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duwaikh and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Ambassador al-Duwaikh, in a statement to KUNA, described Hashemi's visit to Kuwait as important and that it will enhance the atmosphere of understanding and brotherhood between the two neighboring countries.

Joint Staff Chief on Air Force Commander's Death

LD0701105795 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Jan. 7, IRNA—The plane carrying Air Force Commander General Mansur Sattari and a number of other senior commanders on board crashed when the plane developed technical problems shortly after the 'Jetstar' aircraft took off for Tehran from Esfahan Thursday [5 January] night.

Chief of the Army's Joint Staff Major General 'Ali Shahbazi, in a televised message on the occasion, said that the plane had to make an emergency landing at Esfahan Airport due to technical problems. However, he added, before landing the plane crashed and regretfully all the passengers and crew on board were martyred. The cause of the incident would be announced later after technical and expert reports are provided, he said.

Brigadier General Sattari and his companions had earlier attended a closing ceremony of the gathering of defence commanders in Kish Island.

On Kish-Tehran route, the Air Force commander decided to attend a convocation ceremony of Air Force pilots at Martyr Baba'i Base in Esfahan. After a two-hour stay in Esfahan, the plane headed for Tehran at 20:40 hours local time (17:10 hours GMT). A few while [as received] later, when the plane was at 2000-foot altitude, the pilot noticed changes inside the cabin and called for emergency landing.

An Air Force expert team was dispatched to Esfahan to probe into the cause of the crash.

Meanwhile, a number of officials in separate messages and statements expressed their condolences over the tragic incident.

The statements condoled the leader of the Islamic revolution and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, Grand Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, Air Force personnel and berevead families of the martyrs.

In their messages, Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, Isfahan Friday prayers leader Ayatollah Taheri, and Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri prayed to Almighty God to place their souls in a sublime position and bestow patience upon the bereaved families.

Voice And Vision Announces Changes, Additions

*New Channels To Be Added to TV Network

95LA0067E Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 Nov 94 p 8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 16—Three television channels will be added to the existing TV networks of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), it was announced Wednesday [16 November].

Deputy IRIB chief, Dr. Ahmad Purnejati told a 3-day seminar in the southern city of Ahvaz that the new channels will start broadcasting as of next year (starting March 21, 1995). He did not provide details.

Referring to the IRIB volunteer forces (Basij) he said, "they should function as a symbol parallel to the programs and while deciding models, and regard manpower-training as principle".

Another IRIB official told the gathering that the world's arrogant powers are busy conspiring against Islam and progressive forces. "Muslims should follow the path of the late Imam Khomeini and harmonize our thinking with his thoughts", the IRIB's deputy for financial and administrative affairs told the IRIB Basij Seminar.

Presently the IRIB has three TV channels. The state-owned organization's workability and productivity was greatly enhanced after Dr. 'Ali Larijani took over as its director general in February. He was appointed to the important post of IRIB director general by the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

IRIB, in charge of the country's radio and television broadcasts was run by Mohammad Hashemi for 13 years. After Larijani's appointment broadcast hours increased almost two times and quality of programs improved to a great extent.

Fourth Television Network Inaugurated

NC0601080495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During the course of the visit by the director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province, it was announced that a fourth network of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran would be inaugurated for Tehran and the other major cities of the

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country. Our correspondent announces from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Chahahr Mahall va Bakhtiari:

[Begin recording] Dr. Larijani, the head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is currently visiting Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province accompanied by a delegation of acting and deputy directors of this organization. He inspected the Voice and Vision centers and radio and television transmitters of this province and announced in an interview: The building operations for expanding the color television studios and the plan for expanding the entire center will be initiated in the beginning of the new [Iranian] year. With the implementation of these operations, which will take a year and a half to complete, the audio and video reception problems of Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province will be eliminated.

During this visit, one of the deputy directors of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran spoke to us in an interview. Reporting on expanding the third television network, he said: Given the immense attention that the Islamic Majles is allocating to ensuring the necessary funds for this organization, this network will provide coverage to 90 percent of the country's population by the end of the Second 5-Year Plan. The other two networks will also provide coverage to 97 percent of the provincial population.

The technical deputy director of the Voice and Vision added: It has been decided to inaugurate a fourth television network for Tehran and the major cities of the country. He stated: Those programs that will be recorded from satellite transmissions and are deemed appropriate for dissemination will be incorporated into the programs of the three current television networks. [end recording]

New Ground Transmitter Commissioned

LD0701114795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A ground satellite transmitter has been opened in Dehdasht, in Kohkiluye va Boyer Ahmad. With the inauguration of this 50-watt ground satellite transmitter, more than 50,000 inhabitants of the town and the surrounding villages can now receive programs of the Islamic Republic of Iran's first network on channel nine. The station has an 18-meter mast, a satellite dish, and other equipment. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Upcoming U.S. Defense Secretary Perry's Visit Examined

Visit Hopes To 'Revise Perceptions'

BK0701130095 Karachi DAWN in English 7 Jan 95 p 11

[Editorial: "Waiting for Mr. Perry"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The forthcoming visit of the American Secretary of Defence to South Asia will hopefully provide an occasion for Washington to revise its perception of the region. It is after seven years that a Pentagon chief will be coming here. Much has changed in the world during the intervening period. Most significantly, the cold war has ended and the US is in the process of shaping a new international order in an age when the bipolar system has given way to an arrangement dominated by multiple centres of power. Unfortunately, the pattern of Washington's equations with the two major countries of the subcontinent continues to be determined by outdated perceptions and strategic imperatives that are no longer valid. In that sense, Mr William Perry's visit to Islamabad and New Delhi could not have been more timely.

There are certain basic facts about international politics in South Asia that any American leader should take into consideration when planning the United States' relationship with the region. With the age of superpower rivalry having ended, the compulsion for outsiders to seek regional proxies no longer exists. Neither do they countries of a region have the option of linking up with another major power to use it as a countervailing force. As the history of this region amply demonstrates, these factors had complicated inter-state relations in South Asia and added further element of instability to its volatile situation. With the cold war having ended, there is now no good reason for outside powers to play off one side against another. Any discriminatory approach designed to placate one will inevitably alienate the other and destabilise the region, making it vulnerable to strife.

Mr Perry would do well to work for an evenhanded approach towards India and Pakistan. No one would quarrel with America's good intentions. It says it wants to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, that it wants peace and stability in the region, and that it wishes the human rights of the people to be respected. That would explain its stance on the nuclear programmes of India and Pakistan, especially when it suspects, rightly or wrongly, that nuclear weapons are being fabricated. The US has also come round to admitting that Kashmir is a problem between Islamabad and New Delhi and the rights of the Kashmiris are being blatantly violated by India. Given its understanding of the realities of politics of South Asia, it is difficult to understand why America has adopted a somewhat skewed position on the question of peace and stability in the subcontinent.

The fact is that Washington has shown a strong bias in favour of India (presumably because it is a bigger country) in its policy vis-a-vis South Asia. Even on key issues, such as nuclear non-proliferation, the US has chosen to penalise Pakistan for suspected misdemeanour while India has been let off the hook even when its nuclear motives have been clearly established. How else can one interpret the Pressler law which singles out Islamabad by name for sanctions if its nuclear credentials are not certified as being peaceful by the administration? India is not required to submit to any such fiat.

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This has distorted the nuclear proliferation issue in South Asia. Instead of working for a resolution of their differences on an equitable basis, the American approach is encouraging rivalry between the two neighbours.

One hopes that the Clinton Administration will now choose to treat the two major countries of South Asia on an equal footing. If Mr Perry's mission is to promote confidence building measures between India and Pakistan and encourage transparency in their defence planning and spending, he, will have a lot of goodwill and understanding to count on. But he must not try to impose discriminatory restrictions on one at the cost of the other. That approach, will never pay. Even on Kashmir, it is important that American does not turn a blind eye to the destabilising and security implications of the Indian oppression in the Valley. It will be expected to take an objective and fair-minded view of the happenings in the regions.

Editorial Urges Emphasis on Security

BK0801091595 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Tell Mr. Perry What Threatens Our Security!"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] US Defence Secretary, William Perry's visit to Pakistan has to be viewed in the context of South Asian, Central Asian and Middle Eastern developments in security related matters. It has been argued that his agenda does not include Kashmir and NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty]. We certainly do not believe that Mr Perry is going to visit Pakistan for sightseeing or as a stop-over after visiting Husni Mubarak and Yitzhaq Rabin. Even if for some odd reasons, his visit is confined to exchange diplomatic niceties, the developments around Pakistan cannot possibly escape his attention. Islamabad needs to raise those issues with the American dignitary which concern our security and future.

It is hard to believe that Kashmir will not surface on his agenda. Pakistan's recent success at Casablanca is bound to interest Mr Perry and he would indeed be concerned about how Pakistan is going to pursue this problem with its friends. NPT as such might not be raised but the implications of India's growing capability in nuclear missiles and delivery system need to be highlighted. Pakistan's security and our capability to defend our borders against the third largest army in the world equipped with the most sophisticated weapons, need to be brought to his attention if Washington is genuinely concerned with a meaningful relationship with Pakistan. India has not only developed a viable infrastructure of manufacturing deadly weapons with the help of its friends, but is also constantly engaged in issuing threatening statements to Islamabad. The US could possibly argue for an even handed policy in South Asia which would mean perpetuating the imbalance between India and Pakistan. We do not want any special alliance with Washington except to achieve a defence capability that is defensive and is effective against the war material in New Delhi.

Afghanistan and Central Asia would be another area that is liable to come up for discussions between the two governments. Mr Monjo's recent visit to Afghanistan shortly before the arrival of Mr Perry in Pakistan cannot be considered as a part of diplomatic activity aimed at assuring humanitarian aid to Kabul. It is a part of preparing a brief for the Defence Secretary about the latest developments in Afghanistan and beyond. A peaceful Afghanistan is a pre-requisite for Pakistan's commercial and political relations with Central Asian states. Kabul does need humanitarian assistance but such an offer has to take into consideration the real problem of Afghanistan to which both America and Pakistan are a party. After helping the Afghans to push the Russian invadors out of their soil, Islamabad and Washington need to sit together and patch up the difference between the warring feuds in Kabul. It will be futile to suggest that the Washington card is no longer effective in Kabul.

Another crucial area that would or should be analysed concerned the future of the Middle East. Mr Perry's meetings with the Egyptian President and Israeli Prime Minister are neither incidental nor isolated from Pakistan's concerns. Israel's threats to Iran despite the fact that Tehran is a signatory to NPT cannot be taken lightly. Moreover, it is paradoxical that small gains in this area by any Muslim country elicit strong reactions from the United States where there is a criminal silence over the nuclear arsenals of Israel. If the Zionists target Iranian nuclear installations, either it could be through the refueling facilities provided by some collaborator in the Middle East or through missiles, in both cases, they threaten the security of this area to which Pakistan cannot be a silent spectator. If today, it is Iran, tomorrow, it would be Pakistan and the Israelis are not ambivalent about targetting Islamabad. This has been a pattern of Western powers to isolate Muslim countries from one another and then punishing them one by one. Iran's future and security for this area is as crucial as Pakistan's and we cannot be silent spectators to what happens to Tehran in return for some ephemeral gains from Washington.

Mr Perry's visit to Pakistan provides an excellent and timely opportunity to Islamabad to show the horrors of this squeeze on Pakistan from New Delhi on the eastern side and Israeli from the Western. These two partners in evil diplomacy and expansionism need to be checked. The only option Pakistan has is to strengthen ties with its Western and North-Western neighbours and at no cost, no matter how attractive, should be trapped into any formula offered by the State Department. Our future is tied with the fate of our brothers on the Western side and our security is endangered from our eastern neighbour and the distant surrogate of Washington. Both these

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points need to brought to the attention of the visiting dignitary from Washington because in both cases, it is the American pat on their backs that has brought the situation to such frightening dimension.

'Alarmist' Opposition Claims Viewed

BK0801095595 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "The Irrational Opposition"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Amir Jamat-i-Islami, Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad has accused the government of selling off the country's nuclear project and the Gwadar Seaport to the United States. Such allegations are becoming the stock in trade of the Opposition leaders who accuse the government of all the anti-national acts imaginable. One day the government is accused of selling our Nuclear installations, the next day we hear that Kashmir has been sold off, followed by the sale of Gwadar we are told that US troops are already in the Northern Areas and at the same time the sale of Karachi is also announced as a fait accompli. Such wild and irresponsible accusations do not enhance the credibility of the Opposition which is fully entitled to keep a close watch on all actions and policies of the government and is required to point out and oppose all that they consider harmful for the nation. But before they make any allegations they must fully investigate the facts and base their charges on proven facts.

In most cases it is found out that the alleged 'sale' is only a metaphoric sale, or a rumour or at best is based on a suspicion that government might be neglecting some important matter of national importance. In Gwadar a foreign company seeks some land for a fish canning industry. This perfectly legitimate business deal which will be beneficial to Pakistan is publicised as a sale of Pakistan's sacred territory in a strategic area. There is not a shred of evidence that there are any foreign troops in the Northern Areas. It is true that America is taking a renewed interest in Afghanistan and to this end the US ambassador in Pakistan along with the UN representative has gone to Jalalabad to meet Afghan leaders. We are sure that the Pakistan Foreign Office is keeping a close watch on what the US diplomat is doing in Afghanistan. Kashmir remains high on the government's agenda and within its resources the government is doing all it can for the liberation of Kashmir. Only a reckless fool would advocate a direct military assault on the Indian troops in Kashmir by the Pakistan army to liberate Kashmir. And yet this is what many Opposition leaders are saying by implication. Kashmir is at present and will remain the top priority for the Government of Pakistan till the Kashmiri people win their right of self-determination. The government is exerting all the diplomatic pressure it can on India to halt its brutal suppression of the Kashmir freedom fighters, and its efforts are beginning to make headway. As for our nuclear project, the government has stated that it is there and will remain as it is till there is an NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] for the whole region. There will be no unilateral capping or rolling back of our nuclear programme. This is where the matter rests and this is enough to ensure our security. It is at a stage when it is an adequate deterrent, and as such it is serving its purpose. Nuclear sabre-rattling is not at all necessary.

When a list of rewards was published offering large sums of money for information that could lead to the arrest of wanted proclaimed offenders, the Opposition shouted that all Opposition MNAs [Members of the National Assembly] and MPAs [members of provincial assemblies] were included in that list. The fact was that the list contained names of all those against whom there were serious charges in Sindh. There were some MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Monument] leaders. Other than MQM leaders the name of no Opposition leader was included in the list but this did not prevent the Opposition screaming that the government was victimising the Opposition MNAs and MPAs.

When the Opposition takes steps in the right direction the Government should show its appreciation. When Mian Nawaz Sharif went on a goodwill mission to Bosnia and presented a cheque of one million German marks from the people of Pakistan he did the right thing and his action should be applauded by the government. Likewise when the Opposition forms various committees to keep a watch on prices of consumer goods and various aspects of government actions, it is only fulfilling its constitutional duty. These committees, if they work honestly and effectively will curb the waywardness of government and reduce the tendency of men in power to do as they please. In this way the Opposition will make its contribution towards the good government of the country.

Instead of raising alarmist slogans about selling Gwadar, Karachi or Kashmir the Opposition should organise effective vigilance on the actions of the government and to expose its lapses and the wrong-doing of its ministers and officials so as to minimise corruption and check errors in the government well in time before much damage is done. By so doing the Opposition will establish its credibility and enhance its image as the government-in-waiting.

'Thousands' Attend Anti-U.S. Rally

BK0601145495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 6 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Jan 6 (AFP)—Thousands of people attended an anti-US rally convened by the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party here Friday [6 January] ahead of next week's official visit by US Defence Secretary William Perry.

Perry is to arrive here Tuesday on a three-day visit for talks with Pakistan leaders. The visit is the first in a decade by a US defence secretary to Washington's former Cold War ally.

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Terming his mission a "conspiracy" aimed at pressuring Pakistan to abandon its nuclear programme, the Jamaat Chief Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad also lashed out at Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for her "failure" to safeguard national interests.

Predicting that 1995 would be the year of "Islamic revolution" which would also witness the "end of Bhutto rule," he said the nation would not let her government barter away the country's vital interests like freeing Kashmir from the Indian rule and developing its nuclear deterrent.

He claimed the defence secretary was coming here to compel Pakistan into signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to establish what he called an "India-Israeli hegemony" against the Muslim world.

He claimed that Washington was "worried" the 21st century would give rise to promotion of an Islamic identity against Western culture.

"Kashmir is our jugular vein while (the) nuclear programme is Pakistan's life," he said, as the crowd shouted slogans like "No to NPT."

The Jamaat supports the ongoing separatist struggle in Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state, where the five-year movement has claimed more than 10,000 lives.

The dispute over Kashmir, the northern third of which is governed by Pakistan, has triggered two of three wars Indian and Pakistan have fought since independence from Britain in 1947. The two subcontinent rivals are widely believed to be capable of making nuclear weapons.

Pakistan, resisting US pressures to rollback its nuclear programme, says it would be ready to sign the NPT if India agrees to do the same.

Ahmad, rejected this saying "we will not sign the NPT even if India agrees." The Jamaat leader vowed that Pakistan would ratify it only after the United States and other major powers abandoned their nuclear weapons.

He also claimed Bhutto was bluffing the nation by saying that the country's nuclear programme was "intact." He said he had been told in the Senate foreign relations committee that the atomic programme would be first capped, then rolled back and finally abandoned.

Stressing that Pakistan can defend itself with a nuclear deterrent, he called for implementation of a UN resolution for a plebiscite in Kashmir to end the confrontation in the region.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the separatists and has said the UN resolution, passed in 1948, no longer has relevance. Pakistan has denied the Indian charge saying it only extends diplomatic support for what it calls a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Government Accused of 'Selling Out'

BK0701115695 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Jan 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rawalpindi, Jan 6 (PPI)—Amir Jamat-e-Islami [JI] Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad Friday [6 January] charged the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government of selling out country's nuclear programme, as well as the strategic Gwadur port to the United States.

The US control over Gwadur will be tantamount to strangulating the entire Islamic World, while selling out of nuclear programme would expose Pakistan to an external aggression", Qazi Hussain Ahmad said, while addressing a large public meeting here.

Rejecting signing of NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty], Amir JI said that this is not possible till Russia, US, China and India dismantle their nuclear programme.

"The government should publicly announce that Pakistan possesses nuclear bomb and would be used by her in case aggression is imposed by India."

He termed the PPP government as a US stooge and said that the PPP has put Pakistan's sovereignty in jeopardy. He said the government has mentally paralysed atomic engineers by sending them back to home and not utilising their expertise.

The government's claims about continuation of nuclear programme is an attempt to hoodwink the people, he added. He also charge sheeted [word as published] the government for pursuing a weak policy on Kashmir and said the government should extend material support to the Kashmiri freedom fighters adding that hollow slogans of political support to the Kashmiris is reflective of PPP's cowardice approach vis-a-vis Kashmir problem.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad said the blood of the Muslims is shedding every where adding that the West is fully involved in this conspiracy to prevent formation of an Islamic bloc, which would pose a threat to western culture. About US Defence Secretary William Perry's forthcoming visit to Pakistan he said "we are not against Perry's visit to Pakistan but wish to maintain friendship with the US on the basis of sovereign equality and immediate halt to US interference in Pakistan's internal affairs."

Nalb Amir Jamat-e-Islami Prof Ghafoor Ahmad speaking on the occasion said the United States wants to impose a fictitious resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

He said foreign dignitaries have been visiting Pakistan in the past also but he added that this time there is a concern among the masses.

The Amir JI Punjab Hafiz Idris and Amir NWFP [North West Frontier Province] Prof Ibrahim also spoke on the occasion.

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Earlier, thousands of people staged a forceful demonstration against the US conspiracies, under the aegis of Jamat-e-islami Pakistan.

The demonstration led by Amir Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmad started from Liaquat Bagh, where the demonstrators earlier offered Juma prayers led by the JI chief.

Special prayers for the liberation of held Kashmir, resolution of Bosnia and Chechuya issues and solidarity and integrity of Pakistan. [sentence as published]

The protestors holding banners and placards inscribed with anti-US slogans and chanting full throated slogans in favour of nuclear programme of Pakistan passed through Murree-Roal, Kohati Bazar and Jamla Masjid Road in the shape of a large procession. They finally reached Fawarn Chowk where protest [word indistinct] was addressed by Qazi Hussain Ahmad and other leaders of the Jamat.

The protestors warned the government against any attempt of mortgaging vital national interests and said the masses will compel the government to quit if a cover deal was made on Kashmir and nuclear issue.

They said not the United States but Allah Almighty is the superpower. They said Islam is a religion of peace and principles and does not ordain any order which is discriminatory against some sections. They categorically rejected the much talked about US world order saying that it is in fact world disorder.

They were of the view that Pakistan should device nuclear bomb, keeping in view the obdurate attitude of India on the Kashmir problem.

Bhutto Urged To Postpone U.S. Visit

BK0701102495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Jan 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Visiting a Lame Duck President"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] What to expect from the change of guard at the Capital Hill in Washington last Wednesday [4 January] when the Republicans took control of the Congress after 40 years of uninterrupted Democrat rule? In many ways Washington will remain the same. Yet, the Americans are wary. Most of them have no clear idea of what the "Contract with America" means or whether it was ever meant to be more than a mere campaign promise. How the "Heroes of the Grand Old Party [GOP]", the new speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich and the Senate majority leader Senator Robert Dole combine to provide leadership to the promised revolution is yet to be demonstrated in practical terms. The GOP, however, is sure to take early steps to implement its commitment to protect the poor, to clean up the environment, vote for a balanced budget amendment, undertake measures to control crime and introduce reforms in practically all major sectors. But, to quote Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, the GOP faces an "uphill task" in the Senate. Despite majority, it does not control enough seats in the House to override vetoes by President Clinton. In the 104th Congress, the GOP has 53 out of 100 Senators and 230 out of 435 seats in the House of Representatives.

It would be interesting to see how the Clinton administration readjusts itself to a Republican Congress, particularly on foreign policy issues. There are quite a few areas where the Republicans would like to put their foot down. For example, they do not support US participation in UN peace-keeping operations. Similarly, the Republicans, committed as they are to a balance budget legislation, cannot be expected to provide any significant amount of funds for assistance to foreign countries. More important than foreign aid funds will be the temptation to devise new legislation to micro-manage foreign policy implementation. The Democrats should hardly have a cause to complain because it was during their reign of the Congress over the last four decades that legislation was increasingly used as an instrument of foreign policy, Pressler Amendment being the most outstanding. Such legislation leaves hardly any room for administration to take foreign policy initiatives or even bring about necessary adjustment.

What the rest of the world might expect from the change in legislative leadership in the United States? Precious little, or worst still, a total suspension. The Clinton Presidency never inspired wide public confidence at home or abroad. Foreign policy, in any case, had never been his priority. He neither had the capacity, nor the inclination to take bold foreign policy initiatives. With the Republications now controlling the purse and policy guidance, President Clinton will have even less enthusiasm for doing anything more than just managing the foreign relations as they stand today, of course with appropriate measures to readjust in emergent situations. What all this means is that the most visible effect of what the Americans call a "lame duck" Presidency will be in foreign relations.

Viewed in this background, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has already missed the bus. The earliest she can undertake a trip to Washington would be some time in March next. Judging by his track record, President Bill Clinton can hardly be expected to reinvent his Presidency in such a short period. What good it would be to arrive in Washington and find the President still struggling to gain enough strength to face the GOP challenge? It is not only the fact of the Republicans controlling the Congress but added to that is facing an incumbent Senate majority leader who, at present, is the most likely rival in the next presidential race. Senator Bob Dole must have his own agenda to implement before it is time for GOP to nominate its presidential candidate for 1996. That would bring the Clinton administration under more heavy pressures to combat.

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In the circumstances, he would have little time and energy, or even desire, to attend to a leader with whom he would need to discuss a more complex agenda and take hard decisions.

It would, therefore, be prudent for Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to wait for a more opportune time to visit the United States, which may not be until after the next US presidential elections. Till then, she should focus on nursing the relatively warmer relationship she worked to revive over the last 15 months or so.

Sri Lanka

Military, LTTE Radio Link Set; Truce Reportedly Holds

BK0801124795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1224 GMT 8 Jan 95

[Report by Amal Jayasinghe]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Jan 8 (AFP)—A foreign-monitored truce in Sri Lanka appeared to be holding on Sunday [8 January], its first day, as guns fell silent and Tamil guerrillas announced easy access to their northern Jaffna stronghold.

The Sri Lankan military and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) set up radio links to ensure there were no "accidental violations" of their cessation of hostilities agreement and were using them to exchange greetings, defence officials said.

"We are saying: 'Hello who is there. How are you.' Both sides are cordial to each other. Tiger commanders are meeting today to work out their liaison officers and we will also do likewise," an army field commander said.

The government is expected to gazette the names of observers, including Dutch, Norwegian and Canadian nationals and those nominated by the LTTE, to form six committees which will observe the truce.

As the island's embattled regions remained calm Sunday, the LTTE announced a day-time ferry service between their northern Jaffna peninsula stronghold and the rest of the mainland, to operate daily except on Sundays.

Previously, the Tigers clandestinely operated boats at night across the no-go zone of the Jaffna lagoon. Civilians and rebels commuting from Jaffna, where the LTTE runs a defacto separate state, risked naval gunfire while crossing the lagoon.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga who signed the latest truce pact with LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran Thursday, expressed the hope that the halt in violence could lead to the opening of substantive political negotiations.

Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhala community pledged "very extensive devolution" for Tamils in a bid to resolve the ethnic conflict which turned into an armed struggle with the founding of the LTTE 23 years ago.

The truce coincided with the 96th anniversary of the birth of Kumaratunga's father, late Prime Minister Solomon Bandaranaike, whose aborted pact 30 years ago is expected to form the basis for ethnic peace in Sri Lanka.

Kumaratunga told parliament Friday that she will build on Bandaranaike's agreement with a then Tamil leader, S. J. V. Chelvanayagam, envisaging greater regional autonomy for Tamils.

Western diplomats welcomed the latest development as an important breakthrough towards ending a political and military stalemate and noted that for the first time both parties agreed to foreign involvement in the process.

Political efforts in the past to resolve the conflict have ended disastrously, leading to more violence.

The LTTE was accused of violating previous ceasefire agreements but diplomats said it would now be more difficult for the Tigers to be the first to break it because of the presence of foreign observers.

Officials, however, said the Tigers had rejected a government suggestion to add monitors from Bangladesh and Indonesia who chair the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement, respectively.

Former Air Force Chief Harry Gunatillake, a close adviser to the government, said the involvement of foreigners to chair the monitoring committees would help establish Kumaratunga's good faith.

However, he warned that the government should not delay substantive talks and should press the LTTE to agree to early dates instead of dragging its feet and possibly take advantage of the truce to rebuild and regroup armed cadres.

President Holds News Conference on LTTE Agreement

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] have entered into an agreement on the cessation of hostilities with effect from midnight tonight. President Chandrika Kumaratunga and the LTTE leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, signed a truce accord on behalf of the two parties.

This was disclosed by President Kumaratunga at a news conference held at the parliamentary complex yesterday. At the initial stage there will be no offensive operation by

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either parties for (?two) weeks. An offensive operation will be considered a violation of the agreement during this period. The security forces and the LTTE will maintain their present positions on the ground, keeping a minimum restriction (?of meters) between them. However, each party would reserve the right of movement within 100 meters from their own bunker line, keeping a minimum of 400 meters in the field. Any movement in the restricted areas will be considered an offensive operation. The Navy and the Air Force will continue to perform their legitimate task of safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country from external aggression without in any way engaging in offensive operations against the LTTE or causing any obstructions to this agreement and [words indistinct] fishing activity in specified areas. Acts such as sabotage, bomb explosions, abductions, assassinations, and intimidations directed at any political groups, party, or any individual will amount to an offensive operation.

Committees to deal with violations of this agreement will be set up to inquire into any instances of violations of the terms of the truce agreement. These committees are to be set up in Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya, Mullaittivu, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, and Amparai. These committees will comprise representatives from Colombo; the Netherlands; Norway; the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross]; and from among retired judges or public officers, religious heads, and other leading citizens. These persons are to be appointed by mutual agreement. Each committee will consist of five members, including two from the government, two from the LTTE, and one from a foreign country [words indistinct]. The Governments of Norway and the Netherlands have agreed to send their representatives for the committee.

Answering a question raised by newsmen, the president said that the appointing of foreign members to the committee would in no way make the issue an international one. She noted that this will be a major and first step towards a cease-fire and a peaceful solution to the ethnic crisis. The LTTE leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, and the Sri Lankan Government have entered into an agreement for the first time. She pointed out that the cessation of hostilities would continue till a notice of termination is given by either party. Such notice should be given at least 72 hours before termination.

The president said the government has agreed to open the Elephant Pass land route, but it is difficult to open the Sangupiddy and Pooneryn routes. However, the government has agreed to (?find) an alternative route and to shift the Pooneryn camp by 500 meters. However, there is no agreement with the LTTE to evacuate the Pooneryn camp.

Referring to the political solution, the president said that the government's intention was to devolve power at the maximum level. The People's Alliance administration was given the mandate to find a political solution to this crisis. The government has already allocated 39 billion rupees for the rehabilitation and reconstruction program in the north. Foreign aid was (?sought) for this purpose. The cessation of hostilities agreement will be reviewed when the government delegation reached the Jaffna for the third round of peace talks on the 14th of this month. The peace process will not be stopped if the truce agreement is violated.

Answering another question, the president said that the government has not considered a military solution to the ethnic crisis at this juncture.

Referring to the peace process and the Indian involvement, she said that the Indian Government has so far not made any request to the Sri Lankan Government to hand over Prabhakaran to them.

Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar told newsmen that the Indian prime minister is also very keen in finding a solution to the Sri Lankan problem. Details of peace initiatives will be made known to India and other foreign countries. [Words indistinct] to provide facilities to Tamil devotees in Jaffna to arrive in Vavuniya and later arrange transport for them to travel to Colombo in case if it is not possible to open the land route before Pope John Paul's visit. Assistance of all political parties will be sought for a final deal to settle the ethnic crisis. The LTTE will be invited to Colombo for the final phase of the peace talks.

Defense Secretary General Hamilton Wanasinghe said that the security forces would extend their fullest cooperation to the government's peace efforts.

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